

## **AMCHP 2007 ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

### **HEALTHY COMMUNITIES AMCHP 2007 ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

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March 3rd to 7th, 2007

#### **Medical Home: The Bridge Across the Quality Chasm**

NAN STREETER: Well, I have to applaud all of you who are still here this morning. Um, I'm Nan Streeter, I'm president of AMCHP and, um, ahead of us is, uh, maybe the most fun part of the conference will be the giveaway of the regional baskets. And just a reminder that you do need to be present to win. So, we're, we're almost done and I hope you have learned, um, as much as I have. And so, I want to share some thoughts with you, um, about the conference and my experience and thoughts.

So, what is it that we're all here for? And I think we all know this, but, I want to show you, um, Jeff, over the past couple of years has shown Ben and Kate, I am very fortunate, even though I don't look old enough, um, to be a grandmother. And these are my grandkids. This is Adelaide, and Adelaide'll be two the end of this month. And this is my grandson, Aidan, and Aidan will be five in August, and I can't believe how fast the time has gone. And here they are playing together. And I think this speaks to the importance of family togetherness and fostering healthy relationships among siblings.

On a more sobering note, we're also all about systems. And, um, if you've been following the Washington Post the past week, the unfortunate death of, um, Diamonte Driver, at 12 years of age, from an infection caused by tooth decay. Here we are in the 21<sup>st</sup> century and we have a 12-year-old dying of tooth decay.

To talk a little bit about what I experienced, and I hope you felt it too, is I experienced a lot of enthusiasm. I've experienced, um, kind of a renewal inspiration, I think we've had some wonderful speakers that have inspired us and also have challenged us. I feel hope, hope for the future, hope for children like Diamonte Driver.

Advocacy, we've heard a lot about, uh, advocacy and the need for us to step up to the plate and advocate for mothers and children in this nation. Inclusiveness, uh, I've felt that and I certainly have felt a tremendous, uh, commitment on the part of, um, all of you.

Um, Bonnie just mentioned Merle's three words, that's a reminder, that's a challenge to us. And Doctor Katcha's message, MCH is about human rights.

I want to talk a little bit about, um, a, um, philosophy, um how are the children? And, um, the Masai, a tribe in Africa, um, is thought to be, or considered the most fearsome and intelligent members of various tribes. And, whoops, uh oh, I did it, I wasn't supposed to do that. Okay. All right, back on track. So their traditional

greeting, rather than hello like we say or how are you, is how are the children?

Well, the traditional response is, all the children are well. So, all the children are well means that peace and safety prevail, the priorities of protecting the young, the powerless, are in place, and that society has not forgotten its reason for being, its responsibilities as a society.

So my question is, how are America's children? Can we say all the children are well? Can we say that our society has not forgotten the reason for its existence? Can we say that we have met our responsibilities as adult members of the greatest country in this world? Can we say our children are safe and protected? Can we say that our children are growing up in peace? Can we say that our priority is the young and the powerless? So I wonder, what would happen if all of us, every day, rather than greeting each other with hello or how are you, if we asked, how are the children, do you suppose that it might make a difference in our society and how it takes care of its children? Do you suppose that it might make us all think about our responsibilities to our children and the powerless? And do you suppose every person in our society would get it, that we are responsible for our children and the powerless as they have no voice that can be heard? So I wonder what the powers that be would say to the question. I wonder what it will take for us to be able to say, all the children are well.

On that note, um, I want to talk a little bit about AMCHP. Um, and we've been asked, um, as an organization we've been challenged because we have, um, are

in the process of searching for a new CEO and just wanted to update everybody on where we're at. Um, we have conducted interviews and we're still in the process of interviewing. We hope to have, uh, an announcement, um, of a new CEO by June, uh, maybe sooner, and so I just want to encourage you, we have a wonderful, um, acting CEO, Barbara Lauer, who has been so enthusiastic in, uh, carrying the organization, um, through this transition very smoothly and effectively and powerfully, um, that we feel very confident, um that we will find a new CEO, um, and be able to share that person's name with you soon.

So I want to talk a little bit about AMCHP and some things that AMCHP stands for. Certainly advocacy, certainly mothers, and many of you have heard me advocating for mothers, and I've also been advocating for women. And not to forget that women is M upside down. Mental health, obviously medical home, I mean, there are a number of different words that we can put with these letters. Children, children with special healthcare needs. Capacity, caring, challenges. Health, hope, human rights. P, now I'm known as a good speller, but I had to find a way to get families in there, and so, that's how I did it, phamilies, such a critical part of what we do. Preconception, prevention, preparedness and phuture, we do have a future and we can do this together, we can get this country to the point of being able to say, all the children are well. Thank you.

So, before we end with the fun stuff, um, I do want to take a moment to thank our sponsors and exhibitors. Our sponsors include the Association of University

Centers on Disabilities, also know as AUCD, CityMatCH, ATmatch, the Association of Teachers of Maternal and Child Health, the Children's Safety Network and the National MCH Center for Child Death Review, the Commonwealth Fund, Director's of Health Promotion and Education, Health Systems Research and an Altarun Company. Excuse my slippage there. ICF International, the Johns Hopkins University Women and Children's Health Policy Center, Patient Services Incorporated, and the Universal Application Systems Helping Families, um, Get the Services They Need. Their support has been invaluable to help make this conference possible. We wouldn't be able to do it without all of our sponsors and exhibitors and partners. So, thank you to all of the exhibitors and sponsors for helping us make this thing happen. It's been excellent and I want to thank all of our speakers. Um, I think, uh, the feedback I've heard is that the sessions have been wonderful, good, excellent speakers as well as a variety of topics. So I thank all the speakers. And, behind the scenes, probably the most important, is the staff of AMCHP who have been working behind the scenes for months, spending multiple, multiple hours and energy and creativity to make the conference happen. So I would like to applaud.