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HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

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MCHB/Division of State and Community Health Block Grant Training – Providing Data to Tell the MCH Story

CASSIE LAUVER: Thanks Chris. I just want to, I just want to comment because, the TVIS is really such an important system, and it's recognized not only by you- all who put information in there, but it's certainly recognized by many individuals, by Congress, by state legislators, by lots of researchers who go in and use this. And it's become a very valuable tool that is well recognized in the field. And every year, when I think, we present this critical highlight of the changes that we've made from the past year, and we think we're about done, there's always, and what will we do in the next year's skill building session, well, obviously there is continued change and update to the system, and those changes really are from your, the feedback and input from you, the users, in essence, in putting information in and what will make this system increasingly friendly for you to be able to do that, as well as reviewers and other readers of the application and in terms of what those changes are.

And I just want to say that Stephanie Olsen, who is the budget director, Chris, and the rest of the staff are just so responsive and it's such a pleasure to work with them, to be able to bring these things back to them after the year and say,

“Well, this is what the states are saying that they would like to have as changes to the system,” as well as, this is what the reviewers are saying to, and be able to make these modifications. And I think, two good examples on this year’s application, one relative to newborn screening, where we know lots of state programs are greatly expanding the number of screens that they’re doing or the number of conditions that they’re screening for, and they want the ability, we’ve limited it to 10, and we were able to go in and make that change where states could report that. We’ve also had feedback actually on how some of these are categorized on that form and we plan to re-look at that, work with our newborn screening and genetics folks and some of the state people. And that you will probably see the actual, the next time we update the form. Now the form itself is approved as a package through O & B, and we can’t change the form per se. We can change how you enter into the form, and how much link that there is without changing the form. The other is relative to small numbers. And that obviously can be an issue with some states that have small populations. But it became increasingly an issue with some of the larger states in some of the areas like where you’re reporting adolescent health, where the numbers still may be smaller, maternal mortality or other areas where there might be small numbers, and states were very concerned that if they were showing zero, it really didn’t reflect what was going on, nor did they really want to reflect some of the smaller numbers.

But I will reinforce what Chris said about that. It's really very critical, because I know states sometimes are apprehensive in not wanting to provide provisional data or data that may be an estimate, and it's not intended to do that. We really want a number there and it will come up when that box is checked to use a small number that the reviewers, both the project officers and the reviewers will see that alert. And if it turns out that it wasn't used for that purpose, that will definitely be part of the discussion at the review. Because it really is intended to be used for that specific area. So, I want to again thank Chris and his folks for, and Stephanie for working with this, and I know they'll be a challenge and you will all be talking with Chris I'm sure as the next few months come on. Betsy, I--

BETSY: I just have a really quick question. And it's not so much for this audience, who was totally tuned in to TVIS, but there is such a fantastic wealth of information, and it should be so accessible to so many other people. What are the chances we can get a TVIS easy URL? (laughter) 'Cause that is a serious problem for people who are not familiar with the system that the health data dot net doesn't work anymore, and neither does the link to the new one, by the way, but the long one is a real barrier to people who, it doesn't, yeah.

CASSIE LAUVER: Yeah, there is a shortcut, which is just going into the, the concern is that the URL for this, we've had to give it up when we moved from contractor, the original EasyLink, to the TVIS. And it is cumbersome, and we do discuss it. There is a shortcut around it by just going into the MCHB Website and

clicking on data and it'll take you right to the TVIS. And sometimes I just get lazy myself and just say that's the easiest or quickest way to be able to do it. But it's, it's a point well taken. So. Before we move on to the next presenter, I do want to take the opportunity, there are a number of staff who are project officers for you all from the Division of State and Community Health here with us this afternoon. And if I could just ask you to stand around the room and I'll introduce you, and that way, if some of you are new and haven't met your project officers, you can at least get face recognition.

Up here is Carol O'Toole in the front. And Carol is the project officer for the states in the Region 3 and Region 10. And Michelle Lawler, who is my deputy, who is also the project officer for Region 8. Ellen Volpe, who is fairly new with us. She's been with the division since last June, and came to us from the National Health Service Corps, is the project officer for Region 1. Corey Palmer in the back, is project officer for Region 7. I've been functioning as project officer for Region 6 and 9. And Pam Eason—I don't see her here—is project officer for Regions 2 and 5. And so that, oh, yeah, thank you. And Scott Schneider (laugh) is project—and I don't see Scott here either—is project officer for Region 4. So, having said that, I'd like to introduce Christy Bethell, Dr. Christina Bethell, from the University of Oregon. Christie is the director of the CAHMI program, which is the Child and Adolescent Health Measurement Initiative. And she's also an associate professor at the School of Medicine Oregon Health and Science University. And she has a long history of working with the Bureau as well, and

has been working a number of years now with CAHMI in developing a Website that you all can go to where you can access, and I'll let her talk to her about this more, access data around children with special healthcare needs, and has particularly relevant information for you all as well, about updating the national survey data for children with special needs, which will certainly have an impact, not necessarily on your application this year that you're working on right now, but for the year following that. And we hope to invite her and her staff to be part of the Partnership Meeting next October as well, where I think you will probably be much closer to have a final data. So Christie, why don't I turn it over to you?