

AMCHP 2007 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

March 3rd to 7th, 2007

Partnerships and Capacity by Design:

Building Healthy Communities for Adolescents

SHARRON CORLE: So good afternoon and welcome everyone. I'm Sharron Corle. I am a Project Director at AMCHP and I currently oversee our Adolescent Health Portfolio. So this particular cooperative agreement obviously comes under my purview.

Initially, the work of the partnership was supported through funding through The Annie E. Casey Foundation. They were really interested in increasing state capacity to work on adolescent reproductive health issues and they really were instrumental in developing the conceptual framework and the system capacity assessment tool. You know, as foundations go, though, their priorities change and, you know, they really felt that they had invested and got that off the ground and then we should work to sustain that on our own, which was challenging for a while.

But the Maternal and Child Health Bureau has also been a long-term partner, as Judy had alluded to in supporting the network and really building that capacity among the coordinators to more effectively work on adolescent health and I know

that they, for a long time, were interested in getting a funding stream out there to support the work of the partnership and were finally successful in releasing an RFP in 2005 which AMCHP and a number of other organizations that work in public health apply to and we received it. It's the Partnership to Promote Adolescent in the States, which is the companion cooperative agreement to the PIPPHA cooperative agreement that Judy had mentioned earlier. So we're not a PIPPHA, but we're an invited PIPPHA partner, so we work very closely with them.

Really, this cooperative agreement was designed to elevate the state level focus on the health, safety and well-being of adolescents and young adults. It's really to promote that focus on the adolescent health in-state MCH departments. We, a lot of times, forget that there is, you know, the youth component there, you know, the adolescents. It's MCH. I know California, who's here, there program is actually MCAH, Maternal Child and Adolescent Health, so we're very proud of that.

As far as the foundation for the cooperative agreement was actually the AMCHP network action plan, an implementation plan, so that actually was what populated our work plan. So we already had a lot work done and we could show that this partnership had already achieved a certain level of success and that we wanted to move that forward and we really thought that the partnership played a key role in elevating that state level focus and capacity to work on adolescent health.

Here are the goals of the partnership cooperative agreement. The first goal is to enhance State Title V MCH program capacity to effectively address the health issues of adolescents and young adults. The second goal is specifically related to the partnership that AMCHP through the partnership will improve the skills of State Title V MCH professionals to address adolescent health issues. And the third goal is that AMCHP and the network will improve their collective capacity to respond to the adolescent health needs of their State Title V MCH professionals and strengthen the ability of both organizations to coordinate activities with adolescent health-targeted organizations. I think that speaks to the PIPPHA partnership and other partnerships that we have with Konopka and NAHIC and other adolescent health-focused organizations.

Just some of the activities of this year's work plan are we're going to assess the adolescent health needs of other State Title V MCH professionals which we, in December, we had disseminated a Title V MCH adolescent health survey to the Title V MCH directors and children with special health care needs directors to really assess their sense of what, you know, their state capacity was to address adolescent health and what their priority needs were.

We really thought it was important to disseminate information about adolescent health to keep that as a front burner issue, so we're utilizing current structures that are in place like AMCHP's bi-monthly newsletter, Pulse. So we did our first

ever adolescent health focus edition in December that looked at state successes because we really thought that was important to share among the MCH director level about what was working in states. You know, what were their successful things? Because I think, a lot of times, AMCHP members need to know what other people are doing. You know, it helps them be creative and come up with ideas and also helps them, you know, not reinvent the wheel. I think that's an important, you know, use of that kind of state-to-state networking.

We are also conducting adolescent focus sessions at AMCHP and the network's annual conferences. This is one of them. And as Judy had alluded to, the network's conference is in two weeks in Tucson, Arizona and we'll be doing a partnership focus session there. We're going to plan and facilitate a minimum of two key partner meetings a year. One of them is the partnership meeting where the AMCHP and the network representatives on the partnership come together to strategize, revisit their action plan and implementation plan, and make sure that we're, you know, accomplishing our goals and revisit the ones that we're not or strategize on new ones.

Then we also have partner meetings with our key adolescent health partners. This year, we'll be going to the National Initiative to Improve Adolescent Health partner meeting that's being convened by the Maternal and Child Health Bureau, and the PIPPHA partner meeting which follows on the heels.

Another huge priority of this funding is to raise awareness about the system capacity assessment tool in process, which we feel is really crucial to have states really understand their capacity to address adolescent health and use that as a continuous quality improvement. So here's where you are. How can you move to where you want to be? So Kristin Teipel from Konopka is going to talk a little bit more in depth about the system capacity assessment tool and what the benefit of that is for states.