

AMCHP 2007 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

March 3rd to 7th, 2007

Medical Home: The Bridge Across the Quality Chasm

JEFFREY LOBAS: You could take your seats. Well, thank you. My name is Jeff Lobas. I am the president of AMCHP, and I welcome you all to our 2007 Annual Conference. I know many people have struggles especially the Midwest to get in here and I'm glad for those of you to brave the elements to get here. I look forward to this meeting. It's always on a very exciting time to really bring together all of our kindred spirits.

So I begin this conference today with many emotions. My term as a president is over, which is a sad event and a time of relief for me, but it's also a time of reflection, and I've thought a lot about what we've done at AMCHP and where we've gone the last few years. And one of the things that occurs every time I leave home, and I've traveled a lot, and I got--as many of you know I have a three-and-a-half-year-old twins, and there was one event, "Where's daddy going?" And so I say, "Ben, Kate, I'm going again to make the world a better place for children." And they kind of get that, and they say, "Okay, good daddy." And they send me off, and then that's okay. The last few weeks is a kind of an interesting piece, we've--to kind of celebrate the ending of my presidency, we're

going to Disney World on Friday. We've had to watch Cinderella and Sleeping Beauty and all the Disney flicks everyday for the last two weeks, so she's pretty excited.

So at the risk of sounding like the Academy Awards, I want to thank and acknowledge a number of people here today. First, I want to thank the board of AMCHP, especially Nan Streeter and Sally Fogerty and the executive committee for all that they've done for this organization and for me through the last couple of years. I want to also thank my colleagues and my friends at the Maternal and Child Health Bureau, CDC, Family Voices, CityMatCH, the American Academy of Pediatrics, ATMatCH and all the other people we've met over the last few years. We've done a lot of traveling for the last couple of years. I want to thank the members of AMCHP for your dedication to women and children and families. And I want to thank my colleagues and my staff from Iowa, they've really supported me throughout this whole thing, and they've put up with a lot of travels, so Brian, Doris, others, thank you for all that you've done. I want to thank my family. Although they're not here, they've been very supportive in accepting of my travel, my conference calls at home at 6:30 in the morning, and all the stress over the last few years. And I also want (inaudible) further dedication in their tireless efforts on behalf of families and women and children in this organization. So, thank you all. I think I met my time limit on that one.

Before we go any further, though, I'd like to stop a second and honor someone that we lost recently. As most of you know, Greg Alexander passed away in February. Greg was a professor of pediatrics and public health at the University of South Florida and the husband of Dr. Donna Petersen who's a fellow member of the Maternal and Child Health community and dean of the University of South Florida, College of Public Health. For those of you who knew Greg, and most of you did, he was a wonderful advocate for the Maternal and Child Health community. He was a dedicated teacher and a leader, and he will be missed by all of us, by his peers, by his family that he dedicated his life to in serving women and children in this country. So I'd like to just take a moment of silence to honor his memory and his life and his work. And thank you, Greg, for all that you've done for us.

So now, I'd like to introduce the members of the AMCHP board. They've been an important part of all that we do throughout the year. So I'd ask the directors to stand and stay standing as I call your name. Nan Streeter, president elect from Utah; Sally Fogerty, past president. I think Sally had to leave to go back to Massachusetts. Loretta Fuddy, our treasurer; Millie Jones, our secretary; Valerie Ricker, she's the director of Region I. She was having some major problems getting here with weather. Patricia Penn could not get here either unfortunately. Melita Jordan from Region III; Betsy Wood from Region IV; Karen Hughes from Region V; Melinda Sanders from Region VII; Jo Ann Dotson from Region VIII; Judith Wright from Region IX; Jan Fleming from Region X; and Jim Bryant on At-

Large director; and Annette Phelps on At-Large director. Is Linda here as one of our parent representatives? Ruth is also a representative, and as many of you know, she had a tragic loss of her daughter and is not here. But these are our directors, and I would thank them and ask us to give a round of applause for them.

Next, I want to acknowledge the family delegates by asking them all to stand. I just had lunch with them so I know you're around. So if all the family delegates could please stand and I will appreciate it. And as you know in the past year, our members voted to change our by-laws and create a fifth delegate for each state for a permanent seat, family representatives. We've also continued our family scholar program, which promotes family leadership and family roles with AMCHP and state Title V programs. This year, we had 20 family scholars, and a majority of the newly selected delegates are past family scholars. As I've said at lunch, you're also important to AMCHP in this conference and we really thank you for being here. We continue to develop family involvement within the AMCHP as well as this conference, and they're certainly seeking your input. We've added a suggestion box which is available at the registration desk or any of the AMCHP staff is available also. So thank you, family delegates. We appreciate you.

So few notes on the conference. This evening, from 5:30 to 7:30, we'll have an opening reception, and we will be presenting the special award to Merle McPherson for her contributions to Maternal and Child Health. As you know,

Merle recently retired and has graciously agreed to be with us tonight. As part of the ceremony, there'll be a special performance at 5:45 featuring a group called The Invisible Hands, which is a performing arts group dedicated to the advancement of the deaf culture awareness and bridging the gap between hearing and deaf communities. We'll also be acknowledging the board members who will be departing this year. And during the opening reception, our regions have really put on their creativity caps and come up with some fun activities in crafts base on the traditions of history of their region. They're very enjoyable, and I hope you all visit that and attend this piece. And we encourage you all to take part and have an opportunity to meet other members and partners.

On Monday morning from 9:00 to 10:30, we'll have a town hall meeting with our federal partners. Peter Van Dyck and Janet Collins from MCH and CDC will make presentations on some of the changes going on within their agencies and they'll respond to questions which had been submitted by participants. This is your chance to get information that you need straight from the source, from these important partners at a national level. So I encourage you to submit your questions that you've been concerned with at the registration desk. We also encourage you to attend our open house on Tuesday. There'll be tables of information on many ways members can get involve in the association. You can learn about serving on committees, running for the board of directors or joining the family leadership caucus. During this time, they'll be a new member orientation. There'll be other tables that will feature resources from members

learning about information and tools available on the AMCHP Web site. That will Tuesday afternoon from 3:45 to 5:30.

Part of our conference is always been advocacy, and we encourage you all to schedule health visits while you're in D.C. and help educate your policymakers from your states of the importance of maternal and child health in this country. If you haven't made an appointment with your members of congress, sorry, I encourage you to do so while you're here. We and others, we have found this to be a very instrumental in keeping support in own state, in our program, so more-- for more information on this health visits, please visit the registration desk.

We have great plenaries on medical home, pre-conception care, adolescent health, and we've really put together an impressive group of speakers this year discussing very relevant cutting edge topics. We've also, at the closing session, do our very ever popular regional (inaudible) drawing on Wednesday morning. You must be present to win, so please try to catch that event. We also, in the late phases of planning, we added a special workshop early afternoon on Wednesday. It's a special workshop called Maternal and Child Health at the Time of War. What is our Role? And that should be a very exciting workshop. And if your travel arrangements allow, I'd really encourage you to come there.

So, I'm going to spend a couple of minutes as I thought about this. I thought it was a time of reflection. I'm going to give the highlights of my presidency. It's

kind of like home movie, so I apologize ahead of time. So please don't leave, we got a great plenary. The first was my closing session in 2005, first time as president. The highlights of that talk, we had our--we had the head of the Children's Defense Fund give them a (inaudible) lecture, and I heard about whistles in Washington and the giant sucking sound and the giant disconnect in the code red for children, and then I heard a great quote from one of our speakers there, "When you're going through hell just keep going." So, we have had a tough time in the Maternal and Child Health world over the last few years. That's not quite a whistle, but we had a visit from our ground hawk friend in commemoration of ground hawk day. I heard about in 2005 unwarranted optimism, and I think all of us have that, and I live here every year with an optimism that I didn't have before the conference. We heard about every child mean sacred. I believe that in my heart, and I certainly--we've all dedicated out life to children and families and women. And every family is sacred, that was the true highlight for me, and has keep me going. And then in 2006 at the closing session--well, before the closing session, we had a kind of our own Academy Awards and I think that's Sally Fogerty, but she came incognito to the conference that year. Then we heard about the various letters and the opportunities that we all had as leaders, and I think we left taking that very seriously. And then I think Tom Cruise came to visit us, and I'm not sure who that beautiful movie starlet is but they made a showing that year. And then we had a visit from this couple of guys who--they kept trying and trying and trying, and I just don't think it's ever going to work but at least you got to give them credit for trying. And then we

heard about dreams and how we all need to have dreams, and that's been part of my presidency. And then Katherine visited us. She's my daughter. She said, "Stop the madness, Daddy." It's crazy out there. And then when I started my presidency, the kids were not quite one, so that was the first picture I showed in 2005. And then the next year, they grew. And then the next year I was their soccer coach, and they didn't--they did pretty well actually but it wasn't because of their coach. And I show these pictures because they are cute kids and all that but as I've seen them grow and develop and go from infancy to toddler to preschoolers and develop their personalities and develop their abilities and their style and their personalities, to me that's what AMCHP has been going through. We're in a metamorphosis, and then we're growing, and we're on the brink of some new and wonderful things, and I'm very excited about the future. I look back at the last few years and I just feel like this board and this organization are on the brink of doing some really wonderful things, and it's an important organization. So, we've grown just as these youngsters Benjamin and Katherine have. And then we had to talk last--at the partner's meeting, about our strategic plan for AMCHP, and I pointed out, "Our vision is our legacy," and I think the vision we've created for AMCHP is a truly wonderful vision and it is truly the legacy we will live for this country and for our states. And our vision, healthy children, healthy families, and healthy communities, that really says it all, and I leave as president feeling that we--I have left a legacy, and I thank again the board and all the members for all that you've done for me, in this organization and this country. Thank you.

Okay. Now, I have the pleasure of introducing a number of my colleagues and partners. And first, I will introduce the one I consider colleague and a friend and who I've been just thankful to know over the last years, Dr. van Dyck, Peter van Dyck. He is the associate administrator from Maternal and Child Health in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Resource Administration. And as you know, the bureau administers the Maternal and Child Services Block Grant. Dr. van Dyck previously served as director of MCHB's Office of State and Community Health and senior medical adviser to MCHB in HRSA directors. Before joining the federal government in 1992, he was the director of Family Health Services Division of Utah Department of Health and a professor of pediatrics at the University of Utah Medical Center. Dr. van Dyck earned a Master of Science in Physiology, a medical degree at the University of Illinois Medical Center in Chicago, and a Master of Public Health degree in Maternal and Child Health from the University of California in Berkeley. So I thank Peter for being here with us today, and I introduce him, then you make a few comments. Thank you, Peter.