

## **AMCHP 2008 ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

**WE ARE MAKING A DIFFERENCE:**

**LEADERSHIP, INNOVATION AND INVESTMENT IN  
MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH**

**Iowa's Maternal and Child Health Data Capacity Assessment Project**

March 1st to 5th, 2008

LUCIA DHOOGHE: Okay. Well, again, thank you for coming and we, uh, I want to tell you, uh, what our objectives for this session would be. We hope that once you completed this session that you will be able to know the kind of history and the context of the MCH data capacity assessment that we did in Iowa. That you'll know, um, how we developed our survey tool, that you'll know how we conducted our assessment, and uh, what the result we found and how we intend to, um, to um, use those results.

But we also hope that be--really way beyond that, that, there are handouts up front of the room, ma'am, if you like to come up and get those, um, beyond that we hope that you'll be able to know that if you choose to this kind of assessment, um, in your own state or territory that you will be able to do that, we intend to be conversational. I have to tell you, um, Breana said that this was her first AMCHP conference. This is the first time I'm presenting so I'm trying to be very brave and be, uh, strong and put myself out there but, whoa, I'm not comfortable in this role at all. So, if you wanna interrupt me that'll be good for me. Um, I take my courage

from Debbie Kane who's done this many times and if she can become, I can become, oh okay, I'm over it now. Really you can ask questions at any time um, because we have prepared materials so that there are some good solid materials for you but we haven't like, jam-packed it, because we want you to be able to clarify as we go along. Um, you'll learn about our results and insights but really much importantly you'll learn to do the assessment in your state or your territory.

And to that end, we've given you in terms of hand outs, this PowerPoint presentation, um, in your hard copies so that you can follow along. We've also given you a hard copy of our assessment tool that we used in 2007 in Iowa. So you have that in front of you. We'll refer to that later in the presentation but, um, you have that to take home with you. On the CD, we put both of those documents, the PowerPoint presentation and the electronic tool that Iowa used. Um, and we did that because we thought a lot about what you might need as you go back home from the conferences jam-packed and full of information. And we thought, well, if you really wanted to maybe try this at home, you just need to have those tools with you when you go home. So, um, just know that those are there for you to use.

So, I'll talk a little bit about the evolution of Iowa's MCH data capacity assessment and um, in terms of how it began, it really began in about 2007, '05, '03 in about 2002 or 2003. We did the first, sort of assessment but really it was just an inventory. We said, let's just take a look at the databases that, um, Iowa

has that are related to Maternal And Child Health and, um, let's use some of our SSTI finding and let's just, uh, do an assessment. It really was an inventory, it really was a list of those databases, sort of, who owned the database, where it lived, what it did, um, but it was an inventory. It was a start, but I always warn people if they set out to do that kind of inventory, really think about how they're gonna use the final results. I can tell you that our inventory that we did that first year went into a big, big notebook it was about this big, the biggest notebook we could find. I was the keeper of the notebook, nobody ever looked at it. Honest, quite honestly, and I think really only the keeper of the notebook knows that. So that piece of wisdom that I will share with everybody is, I, just, make sure you know how you're gonna use it. In 2005, we wanted to evolve the data capacity assessment, make it more useful and actually um, Debbie Kane's uh, involvement with it as she came to Iowa as a CDC assignee, was crucial.

I mean, I remember the two of us sitting at the coffee shop and, and me saying, I, you know, (inaudible) I don't know, and Debbie saying, Yeah you know, there's no reason why we can't gather this information from these people. Crunch those numbers and learn something from it. I'm like, well, how do you do that? And she taught me. It was, it was just really, and we're gonna teach you. So, in '05 the data capacity assessment really became a tool that we could learn something from and then use those results. We'll talk about that, um, some more a little bit. And then, um, as far as the current status, now we're pretty committed with SSTI finding to be able to complete the data capacity assessment every two or three

years. We feel like with each replication we gain more rich information about what's going on with MCH databases in Iowa. And our original intent was to do the replication every three years but we had the wonderful opportunity to have Breana Lipscomb come as a master's prepared intern to Iowa last summer and that gave us the resource to um, to really be, able to complete it early. So we did it only after two years. And I want to mention that um, we have the great chance to work with just phenomenal interns in our bureau in our Iowa Department of Public Health. And that's partly because of our boss, .who came in the room just a minute ago. She's sitting up here in the front wearing her signature navy blue color, which I love. Um, Jane is a person who really says to all of us, bring the young people into the shop, we can learn from them, we can mentor them up in not only maternal child health and principles being in public health and, um, they are the future of our programs and she's been a wonderful, um, mentor and taught us to be a mentor to the young people and Breana has been a great, uh, great intern for us into this process.

Now, um, this past assessment in '07, we really spent a lot of time defining some of the concepts that we were using. Um, when we talk about capacity, of data uh, systems, I like to, I'm a kind of person, I just like to use the term the data capacity all the time and just let everybody else figure out what they think it means. But you know you can't do that, I mean you really need to let people know what you think it means. So what, what were we trying to do measure? What was data capacity? What did that even mean? Or for us, we sort of define it by saying this

is our question, this is we want, what we want to answer. Do Iowa's data systems furnish the state and local MCH entities with needed data? There's a lot in that question and we actually try to get it all into the assessment tool. You notice that it's state and local, so for as state staff, what did we need? For the local agencies, some of whom are here at this conference, some of the agency staff, what did they need? And then, what did they need it for and of course, the two biggies, program management and public policy development? So, we really try to fit all that into the assessment tool as you'll see as we get in tool itself that, I think we were able to do that. Now the connection with STTI, um, SSTI, uh, has objectives for each year related to data integration and um, in Iowa, we kind of focus on building data integration capacity or data capacity from the bottom up. In some states, uh, your SSTI programs may be sort of working from the top down and really trying to link up, um, you might be writing objectives to link this data system with that data system in this next year or this next two years or whatever the case maybe. For us, we really try to build capacity from the bottom up. And that really involves the individuals working with the data systems, the individuals that work force people. To that end, um, two of our global objectives in SSTI have to do with the data capacity assessment and the interaction between that evaluation tool and two groups that function in on-going manner in Iowa.

The first is the Data Integration Steering Committee, we call it DISC, and the DISC group is bureau chief or level manager, so Jane's Borse Level and her

peers are the decision makers from Maternal and Child Health and related programs. The DISC group meets every quarter and the full purpose for that meeting is for that group of people to come together to really think about what they need from the data systems and how the data systems might work together better to provide what is needed. The data integration team also meets quarterly but that group of people, they are the, uh, day-to-day the managers of the databases. Now, some of them don't even think of themselves as database managers because you know what, they were nurses, or dental hygienist, or social workers, or people like that, that came in to manage programs. Maybe it was early hearing detection and intervention or maybe it was, you know, first five or maybe it was something else and all of a sudden there's a database associated with that, and my golly, they don't even know about databases. So, this is really an interesting group to bring up to, up to, more to speed in terms of what data systems are all about. So, these groups meet routinely in Iowa with SSTI funding. Now we wanna go forward and talk to you about the results of the 2007 Iowa MCH data capacity assessment and Debbie Kane is gonna do that for you.