

**AMCHP 2008 ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

**WE ARE MAKING A DIFFERENCE:**

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**Opening Plenary:**

**A Vision for a Compassionate and Affordable Health System**

March 1st to 5th, 2008

NAN STREETER: Well, what can I say? Mike has instilled so much enthusiasm in all of us working with him. It's really exciting time for me. It's a great time to be president. I can take credit for a lot of things.

Anyway, I am so pleased to welcome you here for our annual conference. And as Mike said, I think you'll feel lots of energy. I think you'll feel that AMCHP is on the move, that we're visible. That we're advocating, that we're representing you in your states and territories and that we're here for you.

So we want to hear from you throughout the conference in terms of what we can do to meet our member needs. I also want to mention that the conference program I think lends itself to some exciting topics, great plenary sessions, great speakers, great workshop sessions. And so I think you'll be really energized. You'll hear about innovation. You'll hear about leadership and you'll hear about investment.

Also, just to remind you, there are a couple of events on the program that we really would like to make sure that you all attend. There's a town hall luncheon today. This is an opportunity for all of us to talk with our federal partners, with AMCHP, and to ask key questions about what's going on in the MCH world today.

Also, the AMCHP business meeting is tomorrow. Please come. I think we'll be able to convey to you all some of the exciting things that the board has been working on and also the staff. And the staff is wonderful. They're the core of this organization. And I really applaud them for all of their hard work.

And then also don't forget that on Wednesday, for the close, we have the regional baskets. And for those of you who have not been here before for the regional baskets, let me tell you, it is fun. So you'd be amazed at some of the things that are in those baskets.

So plan on sticking around. So on with the agenda for this morning. It is a great pleasure for me to introduce Dr. Janet Collins. Janet has been a wonderful friend and partner of AMCHP. Janet's leadership of the Center For Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion comes at a key time when we are integrating MCH work with chronic disease work.

With her support, AMCHP is actively engaged with several CDC-related projects about which you will learn more during this conference. But they include issues like women's health, perinatal health, preconception health and care. Chronic disease and so on. Janet's research interests have focused on adolescent health an area that AMCHP continues to work on in a number of different areas and with partners.

Dr. Collins is a behavioral scientist with a Ph.D. in educational psychology from Stanford University and a master's degree in clinical psychology from San Diego State University. Prior to coming to CDC she taught and worked at UCLA, my alma mater, in the area of educational measurement.

And so it's a pleasure for me to welcome Janet Collins to the podium.

JANET COLLINS: Well, good morning everybody. What an incredible turnout. And I'm just so pleased to be here to represent CDC at the conference and to speak to you just briefly this morning to welcome you and say how pleased CDC is to be part of this conference and to support a number of the sessions that are embedded within the conference, and can I start by having all of the CDC staff please stand in the audience. Come on, folks, pop on up there. There you are.

We are very, very pleased to join you. And I'd like to first extend my congratulations to Michael Fraser, AMCHP has made an extraordinary selection in its new CEO. And we look forward to working with you for many years to come. You can tell just by his introduction what great energy and leadership he brings to this effort.

And I was so pleased this morning to find out that the presidency is a two-year event, because I was just not ready to lose Nan Streeter and her leadership so quickly. So we very much look forward to working with both of you over the coming years.

We have a new face at CDC, too, that you're going to get to meet at the town hall. And I wanted to make a special introduction of Dr. Ed Travathan. And Ed would you give a wave to the crowd so they know who you are.

I know many of you know Dr. Travathan, and he's CDC's new center director for the National Center for Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities. He joins CDC in July. It's been tremendous to have him join us and work so closely across our two centers in particular. Dr. Travathan is a pediatric neurologist.

He was most recently professor of neurology and pediatrics and director of the Division of Pediatric and Developmental Neurology in Washington St. Louis School of Medicine. So we're pleased to have you join CDC. And, again, I think we'll all be working incredibly well together in the years to come.

Well, AMCHP, make no mistake, Michael, is very real to us. And you work with us across many, many centers and divisions at CDC. You may have noticed that we don't have a kind of pull-together MCH center at CDC, but in fact you have to go to all kinds of parts and pieces of us to sort of weave it all together. And in fact, in some sense the goals

processed at CDC that's sort of trying to align our activities over life stages works very well for us in the MCH arena.

Because AMCHP at this point in time is really working with a whole host of partners at CDC. And we very much appreciate those connectivities.

AMCHP is helping us in the preparedness arena. Look at issues of flu preparedness, in particular, among, during pregnancy, as well as among infants and children that's not been fully addressed as a preparedness issue. You're working with our HIV and STD colleagues and linking those issues in with teen pregnancy.

We're, of course, all working the preconception care area which has really just exploded with papers and issues arising in that area and really needing to figure out what our next priorities are together there. And as Nan mentioned, very important to my center, we're working in all kinds of ways connecting the MCH issues with chronic disease issues, working on gestational diabetes. Working on tobacco use during pregnancy, working on issues of weight gain before and during pregnancy.

The connectivity is very, very important to us in those areas.

Of course, we're working together on state infant mortality, the collaborative work as well as the toolkit work. And importantly AMCHP contributes so much in workforce development as indicated by your preworkshop training here and your contributions to training in the epi assignee program as well.

So AMCHP is well situated and I think we're well situated to all work together and work hard. And I want to thank the audience for your engagement and participation in the meeting, but most importantly for the work that you do every single day in your localities and states. Congratulations. And I look forward to meeting many of you over the coming days.

Thank you.