

## **AMCHP Conference 2009**

### **A Vision for Transforming our Public Health and Healthcare System to Better Serve America's Women, Children, and Families**

February 20-27 2009

NAN STREETER: Well, good evening. You're so good. It's great to feel the enthusiasm in the air. I hear it. I hear excitement.

I want to welcome you to the 2009 AMCHP conference. I don't know about you, but I think the launch sequence really says a lot about the kind of excitement and enthusiasm and energy that I feel, as I mentioned.

We have great speakers this year. We have great sessions and great networking opportunities. And so I hope you're all ready to make the most out of this year's program. It certainly is cram-packed with a lot of excellent, excellent sessions.

I'm Nan Streeter. I'm the AMCHP president. In my day job I am the MCH director at the Utah Department of Health, and I think it's amazing to me that in these tough times, particularly of late, that we have so many people who have registered for this conference.

And in fact the numbers are higher this year than they were last year, and so it says a lot [Applause], and also recognizing that many states and territories have travel restrictions. I think the attendance this year really speaks to the message, I guess, of trying to get state and territorial Title V staff out to this important meeting.

So I think what we need to do is talk a little bit about some of the goals that I set for the organization when I took over as president two years ago.

I had set several goals, and wanted to make sure that they were at least initiated. And I feel really good that these five goals have not just been initiated, but we're making great headway on them. And they include greater visibility for the organization, and I think that with Mike Fraser and his wonderful staff we have really seen AMCHP [Applause] -- we have really seen AMCHP on the hill visible to members as well, and that was one of the things I really wanted to strive for is putting a face on AMCHP.

One of the other issues was, or goals, was better or more member involvement. And I think we've seen that in our committee work, we're seeing it in our attendance at the conference, and we hope for those of you who are new to AMCHP, if you would stop by the registration desk and there are a number of organizational committees that we'd love

to get you involved in. We're always looking for new ideas, new blood, and opportunities to bring up new leaders. So we encourage you to sign up for one of the organizational committees.

Advocacy was my third goal, and as I mentioned, the visibility of AMCHP on the hill with congressional staff, et cetera, we're seeing such great visibility of AMCHP advocating for Title V, as well as other funding streams like WIC, Medicaid, Title X. So we're trying to promote not just Title V but also the related programs for moms and kids.

And then the last -- no, second to last. The fourth goal was partnerships. And we knew a couple years ago we needed to develop more partners, develop relationships with more partners, and we also needed to work on the relationships we already have. And I think we've accomplished that. Again, we're not finished by any means, but I think we've made some great strides in interfacing with the partners that we had previously, and also some new partners, so that's exciting.

And then last is fundraising. And we've been fortunate. You know, Mike and his staff, particularly right before this conference, were busily preparing several grants. And you all know what grant writing is like. It's tedious, it's hard, frustrating at times. And because of

their efforts, we have several new grants that we hadn't had previously, and one is the National Center for Autism. And so I'm really proud of the evolution of AMCHP and the expansion of its focus. And obviously Mike does this with a very talented staff.

So I would like now to invite Mike Fraser to the stage, and he would like to give you a couple of remarks.