

Federal/State Maternal and Child Health Partnership

Title V 2010 Needs Assessment

Technical Assistance Meeting

MCH Needs Assessment:

Concepts to Catalyst – Capacity to Competency

Welcome

February 25-26, 2009

CASSIE LAUVER: Good morning. Welcome to Federal/State Partnership Light. This is a little different venue for us. As I know you're aware, we usually have our Federal/State Partnership meeting in October. And this year was a little different in that we worked with our colleagues at AMCHP to tag on to their meeting. They were gracious enough to modify their time to give us a day and half at the end of it and move our partnership. So we'll be real interested to see whether this works out for you in terms of having two meetings or working with AMCHP. And I tell you it's very daunting following such a wonderful meeting for--I've been here actually since last Friday and Sunday for the meeting and what a fabulous meeting it was. And it makes this a hard act to follow, but we will do our best. And I really appreciate everyone being up here on the third day ready to go another day and half, bright-eyed and bushy-tailed. So, hopefully, we will measure up to the meeting that has been preceding us.

So, we've done a couple of things and one is we've condensed what we've done in our skills-building session with AMCHP, where we usually have a skills-building session

where we talk to you about what some of the updates are to the Block Grant, so you know how to apply between now and July. And Chris Dykton is here to share that insight and what we--people are waving to him, everybody knows Chris--talk about the guidance. As I'm sure you're aware that the current guidance for the Block Grant application expires in May. And it is currently at OMB for clearance right now. You have a drafts copy. We don't anticipate that there's a lot of change to that guidance. And most of the work that we've done, with your help and a workgroup of interested individuals with the Block Grant guidance has been around the needs assessment.

And most of the meeting beginning with our new presentation this afternoon and tomorrow, we're really focused on not necessarily prescriptive changes into the Block Grant and into the needs assessment what those changes are. But basically the philosophy and just the continuum in terms of our work and focusing on (inaudible) needs assessment. And so, we'll talk more about that later.

But to begin this morning, it's my privilege to introduce Dr. van Dyck who, I know needs no introduction to this group. He presented yesterday at the AMCHP meeting, and I will say that he is a pediatrician. He's an academic. He has experience at the state in federal level, and I really want you to know we are so fortunate to had him in HRSA for the past eight years because without his perseverance in getting here--I think that we all want to thank him for still having an MCH Bureau and our friends her to work with. So, at this point, I just want to turn it over to Dr. van Dyck. Thank you.