

Federal/State Maternal and Child Health Partnership

Technical Assistance Meeting

MCH Needs Assessment:

Concepts to Catalyst – Capacity to Competency

February 25 – 26, 2009

CASSIE LAUVER: So, it's my privilege today to introduce Dr. Wendy, Gwendolyn but I've never called her Gwendolyn, Dr. Wendy Adam. And Wendy is an Assistant Professor of Pediatrics in the section of Adolescent Medicine and Sports Medicine at Baylor University in Houston, Texas. And since 1997, she served as the social work faculty in the MCH funded LEAH, the Leadership Education in Adolescent Health program at Baylor. She combines activities in clinical practice teaching, research, administration and public health in her academic appointment at Baylor College of Medicine. She's developed and is the principal investigator of the state and county funded experiential youth leadership program and has developed innovative leadership training models for interdisciplinary fellows in adolescent health.

Dr. Adam has developed and supervises the Graduate Social Work Training Program within the section of adolescent medicine, and is the curriculum lead for the Public Health and Leadership Development for the LEAH program. She has developed and served as the lead therapist within the family therapy and group therapy programs in the section of adolescent medicine and sports medicine and has researched published on innovative data collection strategies and methods for adolescents.

I've worked with Wendy for many years. The last several years, we've been doing work and doing technical assistance around MCH leadership competencies for the jurisdictions in the Pacific Basin, and it's been a wonderful experience in working with her on that. And she is going to be the lead this afternoon and we'll be joined tomorrow by Dr. Donna Petersen who I know many of you know from the University of South Florida in Tampa.

And just before we get started--and I don't want to really take that time today--but in Dr. Kotelchuck's presentation, one thing that he talked about at the very end was the political will. And one thing that I wanted to talk about too, because even though sometimes we hear groans around needs assessment and that it's something that we feel like we have to do, although I will say there has been a lot of movement in that, in the field here in MCH that people really have started to embrace the process and know that the information that they're looking at is vital to how they plan to meet challenges and serve the populations that we're all here to work with. But it's actually a very critical time.

I was thinking about this last night after such a wonderful two days with AMCHP and watching the presidential address last night. And I don't know if many of you got to watch that address. But even though things seem very dire, it also seems like it's a wonderful time with the opportunities and energy to address some of our challenges. And the needs assessment that we conduct here in the field of maternal and child

health is one that is really very well-recognized in the field. And you can really play, I think, an important role in the work that you're doing now. So before I start coughing here and lose my voice, I'm going to turn it over to Wendy.