

Federal/State Partnership Meeting

Awards Celebration

October 25-27, 2009

PETER VAN DYCK: ...in the field deserves an award and, of course, many of you have been recognized in other forums. There's some that deserve special recognition, and the bureau has two kinds of awards. The Director's Award is presented to an individual or individuals for noteworthy contributions made to the health of infants, mothers, children, adolescents and children with special healthcare needs in the nation. Nominations for the award can be made by anyone in or out of the MCH program sphere. Clearly, nominations that reflect significant positive effect on the bureau or on the bureau programs or on the bureau directly have an advantage. I'd like to -- the call for award nominations went out several months ago. There's been an active award committee. Marissa Rice is the chair, and I know she's here somewhere. Marissa, raise your hand. Over here. And she was ably assisted by Michelle Lowe, Lauren Raskin Ramos, and Toni, well, Toni Wall. So I want to thank them. And with that, we'll start into the award ceremony.

Imagine a nation -- this is for Maribeth Badura. Maribeth, where are you, so I can see you? Okay. You can just -- imagine a nation where pregnant women in high-risk or adverse health outcomes were not receiving early prenatal care and 65 percent of infant deaths were attributed to low birth weight. Imagine that as many as 25 infants died for every thousand live births. In 1990 when Maribeth Badura

was asked to work for the Healthy Start presidential initiative, that was the situation in many high-risk communities. Healthy Start provides intensive services tailored to the needs of high-risk pregnant women, infants and mothers in geographically, racially, ethnically and linguistically diverse low-income communities who have exceptionally high rates of infant mortality, high rates of unemployment, poverty and major crime.

Through her tireless work and dedication, Maribeth has grown the national Healthy Start program from 15 original projects in 1991 to 102 projects in 19 -- or in 2009 that spanned 38 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico.

Through her innovation, tenacity and oversight, Healthy Start works with individual communities to build upon their resources, to improve the quality of and the access to healthcare for women and infants during the prenatal and interconceptional periods and at both service and system levels.

The Healthy Start program has been able to achieve for its participants what the nation's perinatal healthcare system has not. While the national infant mortality rate remains around 6.7 per thousand live births, 22 Healthy Start communities reported no infant deaths among program participants for the past two years, 2006 and 2007. Most projects have additionally seen dramatic reductions in the infant mortality rate. For example, the infant mortality rate for the northern Wisconsin tribes served by the Great Lakes Intertribal Councils, honoring our children project for 2002 to 2004, was 10.5, the infant mortality rate. In contrast,

the infant mortality rate was only 3.3 among program participants in 2005 to 2007. In 1998, the low birth rate in the Healthy Start projects averaged 12.1 percent. That was in 1998.

By 2006, in contrast to the upward trend in the nation, Healthy Start projects had reduced low birth rate to an average of 10.3 percent. While nationally, 82.8 percent of pregnant women received prenatal care in the first trimester in 1998, first trimester entry into prenatal care for Healthy Start projects was only 41.8 percent. By 2006, though, the projects that increased first trimester entry into prenatal care to 68 percent, that's 68 from 41.8, and for some projects, it was as high as 92 percent. In 2006, the Healthy Start program was evaluated by OMB, one of our favorite agencies, under the Program Assessment Rating Tool or PART as we call it, which we're familiar with, and was found to be effectively targeted, managed, and that independent evaluations had been conducted. This is a huge achievement for the Healthy Start program, and just one among many that are directly attributable to the exceptional leadership of Maribeth Badura.

She is described by her colleagues as a compassionate, conscientious and caring civil servant who works through sickness and health 24/7 to make sure all women and children receive quality care. It's with great pride and admiration, Maribeth, that I present to you the 2009 Director's Award. And this said, the Director's Award presented to Maribeth Badura in recognition of contributions

made to the health of infants, mothers, children, adolescents and children with special healthcare needs in our nation, 2009. Maribeth, congratulations.

MARIBETH BADURA: Thank you for this. I just want to say I'm really blessed I've got a job and work that I can do that I'm just really passionate about. We don't often have that. And I've got great colleagues, mentors and leaders that share their passion and commitment. So thank all of you. Thanks.

PETER VAN DYCK: Loretta Fuddy. Loretta has been an exemplary leader in maternal and child health for over 35 years. Do I dare say it? Thirty-five years. In her current role as chief family health services division -- Loretta, where are you, so I can -- oh, there you are. In her current role as chief family health services division, which is the Title V director for the state of Hawaii, Loretta has provided -- can I say Deliana? I'm just used to saying Deliana -- has provided outstanding and stable leadership to promote health promotion and social services for women and children. She oversees all MCH, children with special healthcare needs and WIC programs and serves as the lead for the state's early childhood, early intervention, family planning, child and adolescent health, primary care and violence prevention activities.

With a background both in social work and public health, Deliana has bridged programs and services in Hawaii to truly address the health and well-being of women, children and families in a unique way. She is focused particularly on

issues that are difficult to address, working to strengthen and integrate MCH data capacity, focusing on reducing child abuse prevention, strengthening home visiting programs, reducing substance abuse among pregnant women and increasing male involvement in MCH. She spearheaded the development of the nationally recognized Healthy Start Home Visitation Program for child abuse prevention in Hawaii, the baby safe outreach and treatment services for pregnant substance-abusing women and the perinatal support program for high-risk pregnant women. She also formed the state's child safety collaborative, the fetal alcohol spectrum disorders program, and early childhood coordination system.

Deliana's dedication to MCH and improving the health and well-being of women, children and families is also evident in the numerous state national advisory committees and boards to which she has been elected. She currently serves as the treasurer for AMCHP, is also past president of the Association of State and Territorial Public Health Social Workers, a past president of the Hawaii Public Health Association, and chair of the Hawaii Children's Trust Fund. She is also presently -- serves presently as the secretary of the Hawaii Fatherhood Commission, the Hawaii Early Intervention Coordinating Council, and many others.

She's received numerous award and recognitions over her career from organizations such as the March of Dimes, Center for Child Welfare Policy, and the Hawaii State Department of Health. She was a finalist for the Ford

Foundation's Innovations in American Government Award for the Healthy Start home visitation model. Deliana has been a quiet trailblazer through her career. Since 1975, she's worked in state government, and over the years has worked in and bridged complex cultural and political systems in Hawaii. She's been able to bring together parents or partners, rather, from across state agencies, family-based and tribal organizations, all along working tirelessly to improve health outcomes.

As many of us know, Hawaii, as well as other states, are experiencing severe budget shortfalls. But through this current challenge, Deliana continues to provide leadership and encouragement to MCH programs, and work to do more with West to support MCH. Deliana, congratulations.

The Director's Award presented to Loretta Fuddy in recognition of contributions made to the health of infants, mothers, children, adolescents and children with special healthcare needs in the nation, 2009.

DELIANA FUDDY: Thank you. Thank you. Thank you. As Maribeth said, I don't think anyone of us comes to these positions without a passion for caring for women and children. And this has been my life's work, and it's all been supported by my tremendous colleagues, both in Hawaii and nationally. I've had many, many mentors, going back to Juanita Evans in really pushing us social workers to really take a prominent role in public health. And, of course, Vince

Hutchins and others. Peter van Dyck himself is a great mentor to all of us. So I just want to say thank you. And again, none of us earned this by ourselves. We come with many, many colleagues all around us. So this is for all my friends and colleagues in Hawaii and nationally. Thank you.

PETER VAN DYCK: Dick Nugent. Dr. Richard Nugent has been chosen for the Director's Award in recognition for his many years of outstanding service to the nation's maternal and child health population. Dick, where are you? Since 2005, he has served as chief of the Family Health Branch, the Center for Health Advancement, Arkansas Department of Health, while also serving concurrently as the associate director for science in the Center for Local Public Health in the Arkansas Department of Health, and serving since 2006 as professor to department of health policy and management in the College of Public Health, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences.

As chief of the Family Health Branch, Dick has been responsible for administrative and medical direction of the branch, including serving as the Title V director, administering at child and adolescent health, women's health, and health connection sections, and coordinating with the children with special healthcare needs program. He's also served as attending physician for women's health clinics and a back-up physician for 45 women's health nurse practitioners.

At the College of Public Health, he has been responsible for leadership of the Center for Maternal and Child Health studies, and teaching a variety of courses with an MCH focus, including MCH overview, child health systems, adolescent health, women's health, children with special healthcare needs, and public health introduction. It all covers it, doesn't it? Dick has been regularly involved in grand rounds and other state national presentations on topics of importance to the MCH community, including blood screening, newborn screening and infant mortality.

Prior to taking on his current responsibilities, Dick served for more than four years as the medical leader of the southeast regional team in the Arkansas Department of Health. Before working in Arkansas, he spent many years serving the MCH populations in North Carolina, '77 to '92, and New Hampshire, '73 to '77. Dick has authored numerous publications and scientific position papers, including on newborn screening, access to care, infant mortality, perinatal care, the impact of low birth weight on neonatal mortality rates, perinatal regionalization and teen pregnancy.

He's received numerous awards and recognition of his work in the field of MCH, including the ANGELS Hawks-Workman Perinatal Award from the University of Arkansas for medical sciences, a certificate of meritorious service from the North Carolina Institute of Medicine, the Ross Award for Distinguished Service in MCH from the Southern Health Association, and the Sydney S. Chipman Award for

Outstanding Professional Service from the Department of MCH School of Public Health, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Dick, congratulations on receiving the Director's Award.

DICK NUGENT: Thank you so much. This is just amazing.

PETER VAN DYCK: These are heavier than they look. You have to hold on tightly. The Director's Award presented to Richard R. Nugent in recognition of contributions made to the health of infants, mothers, children, adolescents and children with special healthcare needs in the nation, 2009. Congratulations.

DICK NUGENT: Thank you. Dr. Peter, thank you so, so much for this award. It is incredibly important because it recognizes not only those who are fortunate enough to receive it themselves, but all of you for your leadership and your professionalism and your dedication to serving mothers and children across this country. So, I really want to thank you for the years that I've had in meeting and greeting with you at these meetings regularly, Federal/State partnership and the Association for Maternal and Child Health Programs, because many of you I've come to feel about as lifelong friends. Thank you very much.

PETER VAN DYCK: Barbara Popper. Barbara? This award recognizes Barbara Popper for her 40-plus years of commitment to the health and wellness of the entire MCH population. Barbara, a former high school teacher, is married to

Steven and the parent of four children and six grandsons. Her second daughter, Nancy, had acute vision challenges, requiring hospitalization when Nancy was an infant. It was her experience with the hospital's restrictive visitation policies that brought Barbara into the advocacy arena.

She asked herself the question, "Are parents allies or adversaries?" Her answer, "We should be allies." So she initiated that process by founding a volunteer parent organization: Children in Hospitals Incorporated, a nonprofit educational and advocacy organization to help families stay with their children during hospitalizations. In addition, Barbara surveyed hospitals on their policies to family participation and it was this survey and her advocacy leadership that helped to change the rules of hospitals throughout the state of Massachusetts. You might like to know that today, Nancy is now healthy and the mother of a newly adopted daughter from China.

Barbara continued her activism with hospitals to impact the building of the new Boston Children's Hospital. When the hospital placed a public advertisement in the paper initiating its plans to build -- or indicating its plans to build a new building, Barbara joined other parents in creating a 10-taxpayer group, requesting a meeting with the hospital to discuss their building plans. This effort grew into a family advisory group that met with members of the hospital staff throughout the planning and building process, having significant impact on the building itself and on a number of the policies around families.

After the completion of a hospital building, the committee became a standing family advisory committee for the new hospital. She's also been long involved in the health and wellness of the entire MCH population. She's a longtime member of the La Leche League and a certified lactation consultant who's helped numerous young mothers with breast feeding directly and through public testimony. In addition, Barbara's traveled internationally on behalf of the league to investigate and report on breast feeding practice in other countries.

As a staff member of Family Voices, Barbara continued to the creation -- contributed to the creation of the Bright Futures for Families Pocket Guide, focusing on the sections on infants and young children. One particularly creative initiative that she completed was when she gathered information from families and professionals about their Telehealth and Telemedicine experiences to create a booklet, the booklet titled "Family Voices in SCHIP Telehealth/Telemedicine Report for Families. Bridges Not Boundaries: The Value and Use of Telemedicine for Children and Youth with Special Needs."

In addition to serving as staff member to Family Voices, Barbara has served as a staff member with the Federation for Children with Special Healthcare Needs, one of the oldest parent organizations concerned with the needs of chronically ill and disabled youngsters since 1986. There, she led the Apple project, assisting

parents of children with special needs and developing their leadership skills in the education system.

As a seasoned Family leader, Barbara is often the first person that many Family leaders meet. She makes sure that young and new leaders are welcomed and partnered with other leaders. Her nightly get-togethers for dinner can be like mother hen and 30 chicks. She serves with passion, commitment and a belief that children deserve to be healthy and loved. And as a family leader, she believes that family caregivers deserve the same support, love and respect.

As an outstanding woman and advocate, Barbara Popper is truly deserving of this Director's Award. Barbara?

BARBARA POPPER: [Inaudible] one minute.

PETER VAN DYCK: Yes, of course. [Inaudible].

Presented to Barbara Popper in recognition of contributions made to the health of infants, mothers, children, adolescents and children with special healthcare needs in the nation, 2009.

BARBARA POPPER: Thank you.

PETER VAN DYCK: Allow me.

BARBARA POPPER: Oh, my gosh. It is so big. I just want to say, as other people have said, it's not just about me, it is all the other parents. I also want to emphasize that the first almost 20 years were volunteer work, I didn't expect to be paid. We went to a million meetings, but it was only because of the partners who reached out to us within our state. It was Sally Fogerty who said, "Oh, you're concerned about the pediatric regulations. Come help us rewrite them." I was an angry parent. I didn't expect the hands to be reached out that were. And I think having worked with bureau on many projects, it's just continued and continued. People have been just so supportive of families and family leaders.

I'd really want to thank you on behalf of all the -- and there was the time we knew all the family leaders in the country. But all of you and your states are helping to support the efforts of willing parents who want to be involved with you. And I encourage you to go home and promote more of that. Thank you.

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: I'm on the board of the Federation for Children with Special Needs, which is Barbara's home organization. And the board voted to provide flowers to Barbara. But they didn't show up. They will. But the hotel staff magnificently stole flowers from the big display, which -- there's some metaphor here. But it's to express appreciation for Barbara's contributions within Massachusetts, as well as nationally.

BARBARA POPPER: Thank you.

PETER VAN DYCK: Barbara, can you have the chair [inaudible]? And we're not going to give those back to the hotel, I think. Denise Sofka. Denise -- oh, there you are. Put your hand up so people can see. Throughout her career as a federal regional state and community levels -- or at those levels, Denise has demonstrated skillful leadership and commitment towards working to improve the lives of MCH populations across the country. A nutritionist by training, she serves as the project officer for the MCH nutrition training programs and the Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental Disabilities, much easily said LEND, grants to the MCHB's Division of Research Training and Education.

Prior to her transfer to that division in 1998, Denise was a public health analyst in the Division of Child, Adolescent and Family Health. She's continued to work collaboratively with them on several nutrition-related projects, for example, the American Academy of Pediatrics Breastfeeding promotion in Physicians Office Practices, and Partners in Program Planning for Adolescent Health.

Prior to coming to the central office, Denise worked with the HRSA Region 9 office in San Francisco, which you, folks, may not have known. In addition to her full-time project officer duties, Denise has willingly assumed leadership responsibilities for the bureau's nutrition and breastfeeding promotion and

support activities. She was instrumental in the initiation and development of a bureau nutrition strategic plan. And despite a decrease in the number of MCHB nutritionists since 2000 and available funding to support nutrition-related projects, a fact they never let me forget, Denise has remained committed to ensuring that the bureau's efforts around the promotion of proper nutrition and healthful practices continue to be strong and consistent.

Denise has truly been a champion for the implementation of the bureau's nutrition strategic plan and for the continued advancement of the bureau's nutrition education and breastfeeding promotion and support efforts. Her knowledge and expertise in these areas are well recognized by her peers and colleagues and other federal agencies and professional associations such as the American Dietetic Association and the Association of State and Territorial Public Health Nutrition Directors. In fact, she was awarded their Excellence in Work Advocacy Award in 2002 and an award from the University of Associated Centers on Disabilities special recognition award in 2005.

Some of her most notable achievements include serving as the MCHB or bureau breastfeeding coordinator and the HRSA liaison to the U.S. -- United States Breastfeeding Committee. Providing vision and leadership in the development of a national nutrition blueprint entitled "Blueprint for Action, Nutrition and Physical Activity: Cornerstones of a Healthy Lifestyle." And this blueprint is a stakeholder

consensus document that brings focus and urgency to critical goals and strategies that will frame nutrition and physical activity for the future in our nation.

She provided oversight for the development of the Bright Futures in Practice, Nutrition and Bright Futures in Practice: Physical Activity documents. And she provides ongoing direction and leadership in addressing pediatric obesity. She served as a HRSA representative on an expert committee that was convened in 2005 by the American Medical Association in collaboration with CDC to develop recommendations for the prevention, assessment and treatment of child and adolescent overweight and obesity. She also serves as the HRSA representative on the National Business Group on Health obesity institute. In addition, she's initiated efforts with the MHCN nutrition training grantees to develop a collaborative project around overweight and obesity.

Denise, you've truly been a champion for nutrition and nutrition programs in the nation for many years. Congratulations on receiving the Director's Award. Please come forward.

Presented to Denise Sofka in recognition of contributions made to the health of infants, mothers, children, adolescents and children with special healthcare needs in the nation, 2009.

DENISE SOFKA: I've written what I was –

PETER VAN DYCK: It's heavy.

DENISE SOFKA: It's heavy. It is heavy. I've only written, like, 15 times what I was going to say, so I'll probably mess it up completely. But thank you very much. I feel honored to receive some -- an award for what I love doing. And I feel so fortunate to have been in the MCH community for the number of years I've been in it. And I -- for this award, I do want to thank Dr. van Dyck because if he wouldn't support the efforts that we try in nutrition and breastfeeding, we really wouldn't be doing -- be able to do anything. And I want to share this with my coworkers, Michele Lawler and Isadora Hare, because the three of us really do the work that, you know, in nutrition and breastfeeding that what we do -- it's the three of us. It's not me.

And one thing that was -- that Dr. van Dyck sort of alluded to about how we really do hassled him a little bit in terms of our projects. And there are other people in the bureau that I have sort of a bad reputation there because they -- they close their doors sometimes when I come by because I'm always looking for money. And so I want to thank them and -- it's on a list and I hope I won't forget the people. But it's like, Mike Muchi, Pete Conway, David Hepple, Laura Cavanaugh, John Nelson, Chris DeGraw, Mark Nearing.

I don't know, I may have missed somebody, but it's the whole list, and especially Dr. van Dyck. So thank you very much.

PETER VAN DYCK: Myrtis Sullivan. Myrtis Sullivan has accomplished many milestones in her life and has distinguished herself as a clinical and public health professional par excellence throughout her career. Myrtis, where are you? There you are. She currently serves as the associate director of the Office of Family Health, Illinois Department of Public Health, which houses the Title V, maternal and child health program. Myrtis also serves as the project director of the State Systems Development Initiative. She chairs a number of division and statewide interagency committees and taskforces that focus on mental health, early intervention, child health insurance and chronic diseases.

She spent much of her life dedicated to helping improve the health and well-being of pregnant women, mothers, infants and children, including those with special healthcare needs. Her high motivational career aspirations to serve those in need led her to study medicine at the University of Illinois in Chicago, where she received degrees in medicine and public health. She completed her residency in pediatrics and a fellowship in ambulatory pediatrics both at John Stroger Hospital, formerly known as Cook County Hospital located in Chicago, Illinois. I spent years as a student in Cook County Hospital more than five years ago. They have good training there.

Myrtis has made many contributions to the field of public health, especially in the areas of maternal and child health. While at the University of Illinois, she served

as an adjunct clinical associate professor and a clinical assistant professor. She's taught classes such as introduction to maternal and child health while advising master and doctoral level students pursuing studies with an MCH emphasis. Myrtis has researched various topics of interest with focus -- focuses on asthma, pediatric environmental health, breastfeeding promotion, as well as conducted community-based collaborative research. Through her research study, she's authored and published numerous reports, abstracts and journal articles.

Myrtis serves on a variety of university and community boards and is an active member of the American Academy of Pediatrics, Delta Omega national honorary public health society and the National Medical Association's Pediatric Section chair, where she received the Grace M. James Award for academic leadership. She has exceptional contributions and a tireless dedication to the health and well-being of infants, pregnant women, mothers and youths, including those with special needs, both on the local and national level, and has made a substantial impact towards the improvement of the health of our nation as well as our children of the future. Myrtis, congratulations.

This is heavy, yeah. The Director's Award is presented to Myrtis Sullivan, recognition of contributions made to the health of infants -- I should have this down by now -- to the health of infants, mothers, children, adolescents and children with special healthcare needs in our nation, 2009.

MYRTIS SULLIVAN: I'd like to thank my two daughters, Elizabeth and Stephanie, and all the children that I -- and families that I worked with throughout the years at Cook County Hospital and also, that I work -- I continue to work with at the -- in Illinois, because, you know, in public health, the whole state, the whole population is our patients and our friends. So I'd like to thank them all for making me the pediatrician and the public health practitioner that I am. And also, I'd like to thank the Maternal and Child Health Bureau and the leadership. Dr. Peter van Dyck, Cassie Lauver and our Region Five Pam Eason, and the whole MCHB team. Thank you for this honor.

PETER VAN DYCK: The other kind of awards the bureau gives are the Vince Hutchins Awards, and they are in honor and memory of Dr. Hutchins who led the bureau from 1977 to 1992, who died on January 15, 2001. And in 19 or in -- rather, in 2002, the bureau chose to establish two new awards that exemplify and celebrate two of Vince's many distinguished qualities. So in honor of Vince's outstanding partnership and collaborative skills, the Dr. Vince L. Hutchins Partnership Award is given to an outstanding individual that exemplifies exemplary skills in partnership and collaboration. It may be awarded annually, but not necessarily, by the bureau at the MCH partnership or new leaders meetings. The recipient receives an individual award and will be recognized on a plaque displayed at the bureau offices.

The second award -- I might add that on the back of your program are the previous Vince L. Hutchins Award receivers. The second award that we give under Vince's name is American Association of Schools of Public Health Outstanding Student Award. That award is not being given this year. But again, it awards Vince's mentorship and partnering and collaborative skills. The Vince L. Hutchins awardee for this year is Phyllis Sloyer. Phyllis, where are you? Oh, there you are. Stand with me while I'm -- I got to read about you now.

PHYLLIS SLOYER: Oh, no. Oh, my goodness, okay.

PETER C VAN DYCK: They can look at you instead of me.

PHYLLIS SLOYER: You know, I can edit that. I can edit that and make it a different story.

PETER C VAN DYCK: For over 25 years, Phyllis has worked to improve the lives of children, youth and families with special healthcare needs in Florida as well as at the national level. In her current position she serves as a director for Florida's Title V Program for children with special healthcare needs, which is called Children Medical Services, where she is responsible for the implementation and operation of the CMS network, a managed system of care for children with special needs that is recognized as a national model.

Phyllis got her start as a pediatric nurse and worked to improve perinatal outcomes across the state. Among her many accomplishments, Phyllis assisted in the development of Florida State Children's Health Insurance legislation and worked to include the CMS network as a Medicaid reform plan. She has provided consultation and technical assistance to other state health programs including programs in the Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico -- she chose good places, didn't she? -- concerning the children health policy financed managed care and case management for children with special healthcare needs.

Phyllis serves on several task forces related to the identification of children with special healthcare needs and systems of care. She's also been visiting faculty for undergraduate and guidance – graduate for undergraduate and graduate programs at several state universities in Florida, discussing systems of care for children with special healthcare needs and policy implications for those systems.

She's always willing to help a fellow state or a national organization to better understand children with special healthcare needs, provide mentoring and technical assistance, or represent the voice of Title V at the national level, and I might add quite well. She's a recognized expert in the field, respected by her peers and partners for her work to improve the health, especially of children with special healthcare needs.

She has received numerous awards and honors in her career. She was recognized by the University of South Florida, College of Public Health as the outstanding woman in public health for 2002, and was awarded an honorary fellowship in the American Academy of Pediatrics for her work in child healthcare coverage and systems of care. Phyllis worked closely with Vince Hutchins, who this award is named after, a man who she greatly respected. Phyllis has been an outstanding leader in the field of MCH and children with special healthcare needs for over 25 years, and she truly exemplifies the qualities for which this award is recognized. Join me in congratulating Phyllis Sloyer.

And this one is really above heavy.

The Dr. Vince L. Hutchins Partnership Award prevented – presented for outstanding partnership and collaboration in maternal and child health. Phyllis J. Sloyer, RN, PhD, 2009. Phyllis, congratulations.

PHYLLIS SLOYER: Thank you. Thank you. Oh, that would put my baggage over the weight limit, I'm pretty sure. I have to tell you I was frankly astounded when I found out about this award. I was standing in front of a cockpit about ready to get on an MD-88 airplane and in the front row in front of me were a couple of federal agents. And when I heard about it, I thought, "Oh, Lord, don't let me scream," because I probably won't be here tonight if that had happened.

As others have said, you know, this award doesn't go to me. This award goes to the hundreds, hundreds of colleagues and families I've worked with over the 30-plus years of my public career and then few other years in my private career, including the outstanding leadership at the bureau. Peter, Cassie, Diana, all of those that I've worked with and the families, families voices who have made such a difference in my life, and the AMCHP staff and board members, you're a great cheerleaders. I've certainly benefited from those partnerships. It's what makes change. It's what creates policies that are effective and that make sense.

The man for whom this award is named was very special to me. Along with another physician who recently passed away, Dr. John McQueen, they said, "You can't just talk about healthcare, you have talk about public health. And those scales aren't balance unless the two of them have an equal force on those scales." They understood what it meant to forge public health and healthcare. And frankly when I look at this audience this evening, I can't wait to see the day that we have people who can say, "I represent public heath and healthcare and not just one or the other, but can talk across those boundaries and make change happen."

I was struck by the panel this evening. And I have to share a story with you. I sometimes have sort of this sixth sense. So, this morning sometimes when I'm in D.C., I go to a church on G Street and it's a special church. At 8:00 they have a

service for the homeless, and there were 200 homeless people who celebrate communion and then celebrate fellowship. It is a kick in your gut.

They don't know what social determinants frankly mean. They don't know what the word life course or life span means. But I can tell you that in their equation it's not just health and not just healthcare, but it's clothing and it's shelter and it's food and it's community support. And if you want a reality check about who you need to work with and who needs to be around you, try going to one of those celebrations. There was nothing fancy about it but they left with a tremendous shine on their face, and they inspire me every time I see them. Thank you so much for this award for all who have made a difference in my life, and especially for my husband, Paul. Thank you.

PETER C VAN DYCK: Let's give another round of applause. Thank you all very much for your attention during the award ceremony. It's so much fun to be able to recognize those who've served for so many years and done such great work as have all of you in your states and jurisdictions. Thank you for all that you do every day of your lives for mothers and children. Cassie, this ends this session, does it? So, there's a reception in the hallway, in the anteroom, a reception. Please join in and enjoy yourself and talk with your comrades and congratulate our award nominee. Thank you.

