

There are no seven wonders of the world in the eyes of a child. There are seven million.

~Walt Streightiff



<http://www.stlukesonline.org/images/indeximages/love.gif>

## Family Support New Hampshire Weekly Newsletter

March 22, 2010

A few years ago I was an assistant toddler teacher and everyday I would wonder what it is that goes through their minds. Seeing as today is so dreary, I got lost in thought and began contemplating this again, but this time I was thinking about the children who suffer from abuse, neglect, and who are underprivileged. Each week, while I search for information to put in this newsletter, I spend a lot of time looking at the many different prevention websites which makes me reflect on what it is that children really need and how we can make a difference to get meet these needs: love and support. I have heard many conversations regarding various topics, including child abuse prevention, and they seem to go in the same direction: how can one person, or a small group of people really make a difference? Even though times are trying right now I think it is very important to remember that for each person who has that thought, instead of looking at the situation negatively, turn the tables and ask yourself “how can I make a difference?”

### What Our Children Need

They need us to **CHERISH** every minute with them,  
For tomorrow may be too late.  
They need us to **HUG** them,  
So they know they are important to us.  
They need us to show **INTEREST** in what they do,  
All they want is approval.  
They need us to **LISTEN** to what they say,  
Remembering they are our future.  
They need us to **DREAM** with them,  
Because this how they find where they want to be in life.  
They need us to **RESPECT** them,  
Because this is how they learn to care about others.  
They need us to **ENCOURAGE** them.  
Because this is how they become the best that they can.  
They need us to **NURTURE** them,  
Because the world can be a harsh place.  
**AND WE ARE THEIR SHELTER FROM HARM!**  
— **Robin Lea Black**

(<http://www.loveourchildrenusa.org/inspirational.php>)

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## **Prevent Child Abuse America Legislative Update**

March 22, 2010

### **Congress Passes Health Care Bill with \$1.5 Billion for Home Visiting**

**CONGRATULATIONS NETWORK!** Establishing dedicated federal funding for quality home visiting services, such as Healthy Families America, has been Prevent Child Abuse America's top legislative priority since 2004. Last night, the House passed health care reform legislation that includes \$1.5 billion over five years for a state grant program for early childhood home visitation. The legislation was passed by the Senate in December and the President is expected to sign the bill tomorrow.

This achievement was made possible by years of hard work from our state Chapter and Healthy Families America networks, our national partners on the Home Visiting Coalition, our champions in Congress and the Administration, and on and on.

The new funding for home visiting will be administered by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) as a new Section 511 of Title V of the Social Security Act, the Maternal and Child Health (MCH) block grant. The bill authorizes \$100 million in FY 2010; \$250 million in FY 2011; \$350 million in FY 2012; \$400 million in FY 2013; and \$400 million in FY 2014.

The text of the legislation is available here:

[http://docs.house.gov/rules/hr4872/111\\_hr3590\\_engrossed.pdf](http://docs.house.gov/rules/hr4872/111_hr3590_engrossed.pdf) (the home visiting provision begins on page 561). Please note that the House also passed a separate reconciliation bill that modifies the health care reform bill. The Senate will take up the reconciliation bill this week. That bill does not contain provisions related to home visiting.

### **Next Steps**

Prevent Child Abuse America will send a more comprehensive summary later this week and will schedule a call for our PCA Chapter and Healthy Families America networks to provide a briefing on the provisions, answer questions, and discuss next steps. We'll also provide more information on the major policy wins for children and families included in the broader health care reform package. More work remains to guide the implementation of the new home visiting program at the federal and state levels, but for the moment, a little celebration is in order!

Any questions about this Legislative Update can be directed to Bridget Gavaghan at 312-663-3520, ext. 819 or at [bgavaghan@preventchildabuse.org](mailto:bgavaghan@preventchildabuse.org).

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We know that many of you have questions about the health reform legislation that passed last night and its impact on state MCH programs. **To provide you with an update on what we know about health reform legislation, and to give AMCHP members and partners a chance to ask questions and discuss current issues related to health reform, we will convene a conference call tomorrow (Tuesday) March 23 from 3:00 - 4:00 pm ET.** Please click [here](#) to register and receive the dial in information.

While there are likely more questions than answers at this point we will use the call as an opportunity to consolidate questions you may have about health reform and share these questions with the appropriate federal partners so they know what state MCH programs are thinking and take that into account as they develop their communications and guidance moving forward.

### **The Latest**

It is being reported that President Obama is expected to sign the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act into law tomorrow, with the Senate beginning debate on the final budget reconciliation changes approved by the House soon after. Once the Senate bill is signed it will set in motion the process to expand health insurance coverage to 32 million Americans - including close to 9 million children and 12 million women of reproductive age in 2014. This will happen regardless of the fate of the reconciliation bill in the Senate, although that action could be completed in the next week or two. More immediately, a number of the insurance reform consumer protections, prevention and public health investments will begin this year. A summary of the changes that take effect within the next year is available [here](#), and a longer implementation timeline through 2014 provided by the Ropes and Gray law firm is [here](#).

### **Immediate Impact for State Title V MCH Programs**

As reported by AMCHP over the past several months the passed bill adds a new Section to Title V of the Social Security Act and provides \$1.5 billion over five years for Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting Programs. **The bill will require States, as a condition of receiving the MCH block grant funds for FY2011, to conduct a needs assessment to identify communities that are at risk for poor maternal and child health and have few quality home visitation programs within six months of passage.** This means the clock could start ticking as early as tomorrow. A summary of the home visiting program provided by the Senate Finance Committee is [here](#), and the full legislative text for the home visiting program is [here](#). The statutory requirements for the elements to be included in your state needs assessments are listed on pages 561-564. We will be working with Federal partners to get as much information as we can about next steps for your program and share that with you.

The law specifies that the program will be jointly administered by the Maternal and Child Health Bureau and the Administration for Children and Families (page 580). The law also specifies that

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eligible entities to receive the grants are “a State, an Indian Tribe, Tribal Organization, or Urban Indian Organization, Puerto Rico, Guam, the Virgin Islands, the Northern Mariana Islands, and American Samoa.” Because of the lack of specificity, we assume that MCHB and ACF could issue guidance asking state Governors to designate a lead state agency, but we do not know that is the case and will be seeking clarification. It may be a good idea for you to connect with your state health agency leadership and key partners from other agencies including child welfare, early education, child care, Medicaid, and others to lay the groundwork for the collaboration that will be needed to optimally implement this in your state.

### **What Else is Specifically in Health Reform for Title V MCH Programs?**

Among the many important provisions, the bill adds two additional new sections to Title V: Section 512 providing an initial grant of \$3 million to support Services to Individuals with a Postpartum Condition and their Families and a new Section 513 providing \$375 million over five years also through ACF for Personal Responsibility Education Grants for state programs "to educate adolescents on both abstinence and contraception for prevention of teenage pregnancy." The bill also restores funding for the Sec. 510 abstinence education grant program. There is no word yet on how this program will mesh with the new evidence-based teen pregnancy prevention funds. Finally, the bill restores the Sec. 501 Family to Family Health Information Center Funding

The bill also creates a \$7 billion Prevention and Public Health Fund (over five years) but specifically indicates that only programs authorized by the Public Health Service Act are eligible. Since Title V is under the Social Security Act it will likely not be directly eligible for support for this fund, but those resources may support many of the CDC and other HRSA programs that address MCH needs.

**"ActingOut" the Developmental Assets**

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We often say that Developmental Assets can be used by anyone working with youth--but how many times have you seen a group other than a school or a local community initiative working to promote the assets? [ActingOut](#), a New Hampshire improvisational theater group, provides a great example of how to integrate Developmental Assets into a program outside of the typical setting.

By offering both after-school and in-school programs that address issues such as relationships, school, peers, and substance abuse, ActingOut seeks to encourage resiliency, social skills, and overall healthy development of youth.

[Learn more about ActingOut](#)