



## SUPPORTING PUBLIC HEALTH PRACTICE IN THE STATES

### MCH Training Program at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health

**A core component of MCH studies at Johns Hopkins is the role of public MCH programs at the local, state, and national levels. The Women's and Children's Health Policy Center serves as a locus for efforts supporting public health practice through the creation of conceptual frameworks, research and evaluation methodologies, and technical resources that assist state and local agencies nationwide in the development of quality systems of care for women, children, and families. Emphasis is given both to conducting research and to synthesizing and disseminating research findings with application to MCH practice and policies through development of publications, policy and technical briefs, and special symposia and seminars.**

**Holly Grason** brings many years of experience with state-level public MCH programs to her work on the development of frameworks for describing and analyzing the roles, organization, and functions of public programs serving women and children. These frameworks address a range of issues, including governmental accountability, financing, quality of care, and public-private system development at the community, state, and national levels. Ms. Grason has worked closely over a number of years with the Association of MCH Programs and the federal MCH Bureau to produce and facilitate use of the MCH Functions Framework (a guide to the 10 essential services for public MCH programs) and a related assessment tool, Capacity Assessment for State Title V Programs (CAST-5). Both of these resources have been widely adopted for describing and assessing the roles and activities of MCH agencies and systems across the nation. Ms. Grason also has developed community, organizational, and system-level assessment and quality improvement tools addressing pediatric primary care, early childhood health and development, and perinatal health care. In this work, she has helped to establish novel methods of measuring system change. Ms. Grason is interested in the translation of academic research and analysis into resources useful for MCH practice and policy development.

**Bernard Guyer**, a former chair of the Department of Population and Family Health Sciences, brings his earlier experience as Director of MCH in Massachusetts to his work supporting public health practice in the states. He Chaired the Maryland Commission on Infant Mortality Prevention, culminating in the publication and dissemination of "*Closing the Gap*"—*Addressing the Disparity of Infant Mortality Among African-American and White Infants: Approaches for Clinicians and Policymakers*. Most recently, Dr. Guyer worked with the Delaware Infant Mortality Task Force to develop a science-based framework to reduce infant mortality. He continues to provide the State of Delaware consultation in the implementation of the Task Force's recommendations. On a national level, Dr. Guyer is a member of the Secretary's Advisory Committee on Infant Mortality and a member of the Institute of Medicine. He is the lead author of an annual summary and state-by-state analysis of vital statistics data (*Pediatrics*). Dr. Guyer's research examines the etiological factors, prevention strategies, and systems of health care that affect child health, as well as the social and political/policy contexts for health and well-being. Dr. Guyer also is exploring novel strategies for investing in children's futures; he is examining the implementation and outcomes of "individual development accounts" in a number of states around the country.

**Cynthia Minkovitz's** research focuses on the delivery of preventive services to children and on understanding and improving health care provider behavior, playing significant roles in the evaluations of the Healthy Steps, CATCH, and Community Pediatrics Training Initiative programs. Her research related to women's health and multiple roles in society led to development of a survey module for states' use in assessing population needs. Dr. Minkovitz is currently engaging pediatric clinician and public health professional organizations in partnerships aimed at bringing together public and private child health providers at the community level to address service delivery and other health system concerns.

**Donna Strobino** has studied the organization of perinatal health services in local communities, the impact of Fetal and Infant Mortality Review programs on population-based services and activities, and the impact of the Healthy Steps Program for Young Children. Dr. Strobino is known in the MCH practice arena for her expertise and guidance related to needs assessment. She frequently is called upon to conduct workshops on the MCH performance measures that states report on annually to the federal Maternal and Child Health Bureau, and she currently serves as a consultant to an evaluation of national MCH performance measures. Dr. Strobino led a team providing expert consultation and guidance to state Family Planning Program Directors in preparing a science- and consensus-based set of indicators to measure quality in family planning programming. Her current and proposed research explores longer term effects of the Healthy Steps program on parental practices related to child development and behavior, children's behavior and social skills, and children's needs for referral services for behavior and development.

Please contact [dstrobin@jhsph.edu](mailto:dstrobin@jhsph.edu) for more information.