

History of the MCHB Workforce and Opportunities for the Future

April 7, 2017

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Changing Times

- The MCH workforce
- How the workforce responds to changing priorities over the years
- Opportunities for the Future



Change is Cyclical

- The more things change, the more they are the same.
- French Proverb



Change can be Good

- **Without change there is no innovation, creativity, or incentive for improvement.**
- **William Pollard**



Change is Inevitable

Benjamin Disraeli

**CHANGE IS
INEVITABLE –
EXCEPT FROM A
VENDING MACHINE.**

PictureQuotes.com

Changing Times

Early 1900s

- Urbanization
- Industrialization
- Immigration
- What MCH Leaders responded and how?



1912 Children's Bureau

First Federal MCH Careers – mostly women

- Social research (focused on Infant Mortality Rate),
- Policy
- Public education (pamphlets)



MCH Workforce

First Local/State MCH Careers

- Prenatal care
- Infant health clinics
- Visiting nurses
- Public sanitation, certified milk stations
- Education of mothers

1921: first MCH training program



Changing Times

Early 1930's

- Great Depression
- Cutbacks in federal health care programs
- Declining health of mothers and babies
- Rising prevalence of childhood disabilities



1935 - Title V of Social Security Act

Grants to States

- Maternal and Infant Clinics
- Child and Youth Clinics
- Crippled Children's Services
- Professional education

How did MCH workforce respond?



Title V MCH Workforce

Primarily Clinical

- Physicians
- Dentists
- Public health nurses
- Medical social workers
- Nutritionists



MCH Workforce Milestone

1981: MCH Services Block Grant Program

- MCH Block Grants to States
 - Noncompetitive, formula grant; State decides services
- Special Projects of Regional/National Significance
 - Training, Research, Demonstration
- Major reduction in Funding

How do you think the MCH Workforce was affected?



Changing Times

1980s

- **Medicaid Eligibility Expansion for Pregnant Women, Infants, Children**
 - From fraction of poverty level to 133% +
- **IOM Report: Core Functions of Public Health**
 - Assessment
 - Policy Development
 - Assurance

How did MCH workforce respond?



MCH Workforce – Today

MCH as Public Health

- Needs Assessment (**workforce?**)
- Policy Work (**workforce?**)
- Assurance (**workforce?**)
- Partnerships and Health Systems (**workforce?**)
- Family Professional Partnerships (**workforce?**)



MCH Workforce – Today

Updates to the Title V Block Grant

- Transparency: State Action Plans, Evidence-based Strategies (**workforce?**)
- Accountability: Performance Measurement System (**workforce?**)
- Life Course Framework (**workforce?**)



2017 and Beyond: Opportunities

How will the MCH workforce respond?

- Ongoing assessment of the changing health needs of the MCH population
- Continuous engagement with the public, consumers, families, partners and decision makers
- Integrating systems of public health, health care and related community services
- Building the capacity to ensure innovative, effective programs and services and efficient use of resources
- Assessing and improving impact/outcomes
- Emerging Public Health Issues
 - Epidemics
 - Information Technology
 - Social Marketing



THANK YOU!



Contact Information

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