

Michigan Council for Maternal and Child Health Policy Agenda 2010

MCMCH Purpose

- MCMCH's purpose is to advocate for public policy that will improve maternal and child health outcomes through prevention programs, access to care and adequate funding/reimbursement for providers.
 - Maternal is pre-conception, prenatal, post-natal and nurturing;
 - Child is prenatal through age 21;
 - Health means physical, mental, developmental, spiritual, and social-emotional well-being of a person or family.

Overall Policy Objectives

1. Promote community involvement in and management of child health and safety issues
2. Advocate for access to services, health literacy and skills, health education, and healthy environments with a focus on prevention for the entire life spectrum from pre-conceptual care to healthy adulthood
 - a. Use data on health consequences and long-term cost to demonstrate return on investment and cost effectiveness of prevention
3. Collaborate with other stakeholders including state government to develop a health care system in Michigan that values maternal and child health
4. Develop common understanding and expectations of family/patient-centered medical home model and reimbursement
5. Require funding for unfunded or under-funded services and programs including:
 - a. Medical services not reimbursed by Medicaid, i.e. obesity, child abuse prevention, mental health, medical home
 - b. Medical services under-funded by Medicaid, i.e. prenatal care, well-child care, pediatric dental services, special health care services
 - c. Primary prevention services and chronic illness management
 - d. Reimbursement for school-based health care by school-based and school-linked health clinics and school nurses

Maternal and Infant Health Care

Goal: Promote investment in a community-based, continuum of care focusing on outreach and prevention programs that provide resources and support for family planning and pre-natal care. Advocate for programs that improve birth outcomes, promote healthy families, and support child development.

Specific policies MCMCH members support:

1. Implement Infant Mental Health screening and IMH specialist training
2. Fully implement and fund revised Maternal Infant Health Program (MIHP) within MDCH
3. Direct resources and programs to communities with highest infant mortality rates and hold those communities accountable to achieve goals
4. Re-establish system of perinatal regionalization

Child/Adolescent Health

Goal: Build a family and person-centered continuum of care and multi-disciplinary approach for children and young adults to assess all facets of their health, learn to prevent health risks, and develop the knowledge and skills needed to make healthy decisions for lifelong health habits and optimal development.

Specific policies MCMCH members support:

1. Promote child and adolescent mental health
2. Implement coordinated school health program model including research-based, factual, quality health education and physical education programs; and
3. Provide access to and reimbursement for primary care for all school-aged children through school-based and school-linked health centers and school nurses with adequate and sustainable funding.

Strategies for Action on Policy Agenda

These strategies will serve both as a driving force for advocacy and as criteria for evaluating the effectiveness of the Council.

1. Use direct lobbying and contract lobbying to educate policymakers on value of health and prevention services for mothers, children and their families
2. Work in collaboration with other stakeholders on agenda items
3. Convene stakeholders across systems on specific agenda items (quarterly meetings)
4. Promote adequate surveillance of key health and service indicators and outcomes;
5. Promote investment in evidence-based practices
6. Support sustained funding of services that have demonstrated outcomes and return on investment
7. Help create pressure for public funding through review of state tax structure
8. Enable consumer voices to speak on key health and service issues at all levels
9. Prepare policy paper with background on maternal and child health issues for gubernatorial candidates

Michigan Council for Maternal and Child Health Action Agenda for 2010

These specific items correlate to our policy agenda and are likely to see action in 2010. We will dedicate the bulk of our resources and efforts to supporting these issues:

1. Involvement in coordinated efforts to restructure state tax system and advocacy for adequate state revenues
2. Full implementation/funding of Maternal Infant Health Program (MIHP)
3. Re-establishment of system of perinatal regionalization
4. Enactment of mental health parity in state law
5. Requirement for health education and physical education for school children
6. Implementation of child development screenings by health care professionals
7. Establishment of medical homes