

New MCH Core Courses

During the 2000-2005 grant period, the MCH Program conducted a detailed review of the MPH curriculum and analyzed its strengths and weaknesses. This led the program to plan for a revision of the MPH curriculum for the next grant period (2005-2010). In the new curriculum we will replace our current course, *Introduction to Maternal and Child Health* (CHSC 441- 3 credits) with two courses *MCH Delivery Systems* (3 credits) and *MCH Health Outcomes and Measurement* (3 credits). We will replace our current Advanced MCH Applied Programs course (CHSC 542- 3 credits) with a course called *Best Practices in MCH*. The phase-in of these courses will begin in Fall 2006. The fourth required MCH course, *MCH Policy and Advocacy* will remain the same but has been upgraded twice in the last five years to include a field-based component and an increase in “data to action” case studies. Below are the objectives for the three new core MCH courses.

MCH Delivery Systems

At the completion of this course, students will be able to describe and explain:

- 1) the legislative process and the legislative base of Title V, Medicaid, Title X and other MCH and related health and social service programs.
- 2) the historical and policy context in which MCH and MCH related programs in the US emerged and continue to develop.
- 3) the structure of governmental MCH service delivery systems at the federal, state and local levels and the intersection of these systems with private sector partners.
- 4) the funding streams for MCH and related health and social service programs.
- 5) the evidence base for the organizational structure and major intervention and policy approaches of the MCH and larger public health delivery systems.
- 6) the meaning of culturally-competent, family-centered care and strategies for evaluating and ensuring the responsiveness of the MCH delivery system to the needs of diverse individuals, families and communities.
- 7) the meaning and use of the essential MCH services, the MCH Pyramid, and the MCH performance system.
- 8) the relationship between agency level performance measurement and “best practices” at the organizational level and the role of governmental public health in providing standards for “best practices” (e.g., Bright Futures Guidelines, Managed Care guidelines, etc.).
- 9) the similarities and differences between MCH problems and the MCH delivery system in the US and those of other industrialized as well as non-industrialized nations.
- 10) the roles and responsibilities of a Maternal and Child Health public health professional.

MCH Health Outcomes and Measurement

At the completion of this course, students will be able to:

- 1) describe and explain the key theoretical frameworks relevant to understanding the health status of women, children and families.
- 2) delineate the key health status outcomes for women, children and families at the individual and population/community level, be knowledgeable of the national health objectives for the MCH population (e.g., HP 2010), and be able to articulate the gaps and trends vis a vis achieving these objectives.

- 3) describe disparities in key health status outcomes, explain the major social, cultural, biological and environmental factors influencing MCH health status and health disparities, and delineate approaches to measuring/responding to MCH health disparities.
- 4) describe the normal (and abnormal) parameters of growth and development and their role in maternal and child health status outcomes.
- 5) explain the strengths and weaknesses, reliability and validity, and applications of the major scales for assessment of the health of women, children and families at the individual and population/community level.
- 6) describe the current “hot” or emerging topics of interest affecting the health of women, children and families.

Best Practices in MCH Programs

At the completion of this course, students will be able to:

- 1) describe and explain the process and principles of evidence-based decision-making and understand its contribution to improving MCH.
- 2) apply analytic skills to a critical review of the literature of MCH/related interventions.
- 3) translate a critical review of the literature into a review of the evidence of MCH/related interventions.
- 4) explain the link between intervention theory, evidence, program planning and evaluation and demonstrate this link for a particular MCH program.
- 5) describe methodologies for translating research findings into public health practice and the challenges to such translation.
- 6) apply organizational and systems change theory to the translation of research into practice.
- 7) describe the relationship between cultural competency in the delivery of individual and population-based services, and “best practices.”
- 8) prepare a grant to obtain funding to support the implementation, or the evaluation of an evidence-based program/policy/system.