

**From the MI-AIMH Central Office – Deborah Weatherston
Activity Summary September 15, 2009 – January 15, 2010**

Infant Mental Health Journal

Hi Fitzgerald assumed new duties as Editor of the Infant Mental Health Journal, effective October 1, 2009, expanding the Associate Editor listing and working with Joy Osofsky and her staff to assure a smooth transition after Joy's 25 years as IMHJ Editor.

Deborah Weatherston co-edited, with Joy Osofsky, the November 2009 issue of the Infant Mental Health Journal, Volume 30 (6). This issue has received very positive attention regarding reflective practice, training, supervision and increased interest in research. "Strengthening and Recognizing Knowledge, Skills, and Reflective Practice: The MI-AIMH Competency Guidelines and Endorsement Process," written by Deborah Weatherston, Melissa Kaplan-Estrin and Sheryl Goldberg, is available for download on the MI-AIMH website under Endorsement.

Detroit-Wayne County CMH Agency Contract

The Year 3 contract, in the amount of \$69,000, was renewed funding MI-AIMH staff support, endorsement support and training events for IMH staff in Detroit-Wayne County.

The Baby Court initiative was renewed. Led by Judge Hartsfield, Carrie Banks Patterson, Ann Stacks, Kate Rosenblum and representatives from MI-AIMH, and in collaboration with a nationally funded project led by Jenifer Goldman, Joy Osofsky, Judge Cindy Lederman and Lynn Katz, this project brings IMH, the courts and child welfare into a closer service relationship.

Donation

MI-AIMH received a generous donation of \$5,000 from the William And Patsy Smith Foundation.

Grant Applications

We have requested funding for updated media education technology, creation of a web-based application for portfolio review for the endorsement process, and a digital version of Baby Stages. The amount of the request from a private donor is \$39,000.00 - \$45,000.00.

MI-AIMH Board member and Michigan State University professor, Holly Brophy-Herb, Ph.D., submitted a grant application that would include training and reflective supervisory responsibilities for MI-AIMH through Project KARE, *Knowledge, Attitudes, and Responses to Emotions (KARE): An Infant Mental Health Approach to Maltreatment Prevention by Building Provider and Parent Capacity to Support Healthy Development*, submitted to the *Quality Improvement Center on Early Childhood*. The proposal is designed to focus on the roles of communities, programs, providers, and parents in supporting healthy parental and infant development in order to reduce the risks of child maltreatment. The amount of the request for MI-AIMH's responsibilities is \$50,000.00.

Endorsement (OUT of STATE)

MI-AIMH has licensed the Competency Guidelines and the Endorsement process to 10 states (see www.mi-aimh.org) who form a League of States. What follows is a quick summary of actions this past quarter:

*Idaho – purchased license to use the competencies with option to use endorsement when Idaho Association for Infant Mental Health fully established.

S. Goldberg/DJW provided training/tech assistance Oct. 28-29, 2009

*Kansas – test review training continued, phone support ongoing as KAIMH leaders bring the process to Kansas.

*Virginia – presentation to a firmly established infant and early childhood collaborative interested in the competencies and endorsement resulted in confirmation of intent to purchase license from MI-AIMH; negotiations continuing.

*League of States – 2nd Annual Reflective Supervision Retreat, Dec 1-2, 2009, Dallas, Texas – 40 leaders representing states that have purchased a License to Use the MI-AIMH Competencies as standards and the MI-AIMH Endorsement process. MI-AIMH team provided administrative and clinical leadership (Sheryl Goldberg, Nichole Paradis, William Schafer and Deborah Weatherston).

League of States leadership participates in monthly phone calls for technical assistance in integrating the use of the competencies and the endorsement into state systems. These calls provide considerable support across the states for services, policies and training experiences that promote infant mental health and are competency-based.

*Colorado AIMH, Indiana AIMH continue to be in communication with MI-AIMH about the purchase of a license to use the competencies and endorsement. An Iowa collaborative has expressed interest as well and has requested phone consultation.

*Ireland – Planning with Irish endorsed colleagues and a large foundation funded program, youngballymun, continued through the fall, culminating in week-long infant mental health master class trainings in Dublin and Cork, January 11-15 & 18, 2010. MI-AIMH has again “birthed” a movement, this time in another country.



* Continuing collaborations with ZERO TO THREE/National Training Institute, Dallas, TX resulted in representation and participation by MI-AIMH staff and members. Events included the following:

Pre-Institute, December 3, 2009 (invited)
The Reflective Continuum: Deepening Knowledge and Process

Institute Symposium, December 4, 2009 (invited)
Research and Practice: Reflective Supervision

Institute, December 4, 2009 (submitted/approved)
Michigan, California, Illinois panel participants
Competency- What is it & how can we define it for the infant and early childhood field?

Nichole Paradis and Carla Baron presented an extremely well received workshop about infant mental health within a home visiting framework with over 100 people in attendance.

Special Projects:

CELEBRATE BABIES! October 26-30, 2009 Events were held in many chapters.

Relationships Matter, a complement to Baby Stages wheel for early learning use by trainers, co-developed by Brooke Foulds and DJW, is ready for print.

Fatherhood wheel is being designed and under review. Members Brooke Foulds, Greg Proulx and Duane Wilson have worked hard on this project.

When a Child Has Two Homes has been re-edited by Betty Tableman and is ready for further review, copyediting and printing.

Sheryl Goldberg was hired as the MI-AIMH Training Institute Coordinator, Nov. 1, 2009. Expect a full report from her in the next issue !

Membership:

At year's end, 565 members, renewal letter sent out to assure continuing membership in 2010.

MI-AIMH should be exceptionally proud of its efforts to effect systems change during a time of financial crisis around the world. This quarter represents what is possible when many people join hands and work collaboratively on behalf of babies, families and providers. I am very proud to be a part of this.