

**Michigan Association for Infant Mental Health
Annual Report
January – December, 2010**

Mission Statement

The mission of MI-AIMH is to promote and support nurturing relationships for all infants and toddlers.

MI-AIMH believes that each infant needs to be nurtured and protected by one or more consistent and stimulating caregivers who enjoy a permanent and special relationship with the baby. This relationship is essential for optimal social, emotional and cognitive growth.

MI-AIMH also believes that the failure to provide and maintain nurturing relationships, at least one, during infancy results in significant damage to the individual's wellbeing and future and to society.

Therefore, MI-AIMH supports the following positions:



Early intervention is an essential social policy, important from both a fiscal and a moral point of view.

Early intervention can be effective for the individual infant only if offered in a manner that promotes and supports the infant-caregiver relationship as the primary source of strength and growth.

Early intervention is effective only when a family's culture is respected and approached as a strength and support.

Support, training and advocacy for early intervention must become a cooperative venture that bridges traditional cultural, disciplinary, administrative and political boundaries.

Highlights from 2010

Training, Clinical Issues and Professional Education

Training and educational opportunities multiplied in response to the need for competency-based training to promote infant mental health and increasing interest in the MI-AIMH Endorsement. The MI-AIMH Board created a new, part time paid position - MI-AIMH Training Institute Coordinator – in November 2009 and hired Sheryl Goldberg.

In sum, there were over 1,220 participants – members and non-members – in more than 40 days of training events sponsored by MI-AIMH this year. This reflects MI-AIMH's position as a major training center in Michigan for the promotion of infant mental health.

MI-AIMH Trainings

The Training Institute coordinator and Training Committee Co-Chairs, Joan Shirilla and Mary Forness, developed policies for combined chapter/MI-AIMH trainings. Of additional interest, several trainings were broadcast to other regions, expanding the reach to audiences around the state. Sheryl Goldberg developed three training series in response to the expressed need for a basic introduction to social and emotional development, a focus on infancy and early parenthood, and a focus on toddlers and intervention services. Each series reflected the *MI-AIMH Competency Guidelines* and earned CEU credits for Social Workers.

Knowledgeable and Skillful Practice: Foundations

- March 26, 2010, *Social Work Ethics in IMH Home Visiting*,
Nichole Paradis, LMSW & Carla Barron, LMSW
- May 7 & 14, 2010, *Social and Emotional Development*,
Kay Loftus, LMSW & Mary Beth Reimer, LMSW

Knowledgeable and Skillful Practice: Infancy (Advanced)

- April 23, 2010, *Embracing Families, Valuing Differences in Parent-Infant Work*,
Bonnie Daligga, MA & Karol Wilson, LMSW
- May 21, 2010, *Relationship Based Observation and Assessment*,
Rebecca Wheeler, LMSW
- June 4, 2010, *The Unfolding of Attachment*,
Julie Ribaudo, LMSW
- June 11, 2010, *Infant-Parent Psychotherapy Approaches*,
Jan Ulrich, LMSW & Kate Rosenblum, PhD

Knowledgeable and Skillful Practice: Toddlerhood (Advanced)

- Sept, 24, 2010, *Embracing Families, Valuing Differences in Toddler-Infant Work*,
Karol Wilson, LMSW
- October 8, 2010, *Observing and Assessing the Toddler, Parent, and Relationship*,
Ann Stacks, PhD & Rebecca Wheeler, LMSW
- October 29, 2010, *A Safe Base from which to Explore Attachment and Loss*,
Julie Ribaudo, LMSW

November 12, 2010, *Toddler-Parent Psychotherapy – Advanced Concepts*,
Doug Davies, PhD

Training Collaborations

MI-AIMH, the Michigan Department of Community Health and IMH practitioners planned a three-part Infant Mental Health Statewide Forum meetings for professionals across the state, continuing the tradition of “infant mental health quarterly meetings,” to bring new knowledge and opportunities for collegial exchange. Pat Murphy and Sandra Greenwald co-lead the series in collaboration with Sheryl Goldberg. Priscilla Tait, MS, CNM, IBCLC, provided a masterful training on each of the three days:

April 1, 2010, *Relationship Development in Pregnancy*

July 29, 2010, *Domestic Violence: Supporting Pregnant Mothers, Infants, and Toddlers
Living in Abusive Environments*

October 25, 2010, *Substance Use and Abuse in Pregnancy and Early Parenting:
Why Doesn't She Just Quit?*

MI-AIMH and the Michigan Department of Community Health co-sponsored two, two-day assessment trainings in Lansing and Southgate for over 80 practitioners from across the state.

April 21 & 22, 2010 *Diagnostic Classification: 0 to 3 Revised*, Donna Weston, PhD

November 2 & 3, 2010 *Diagnostic Classification: 0 to 3 Revised*, Donna Weston, PhD

MI-AIMH entered into a contract with the Virtual Center for Excellence to plan and provide training for Detroit-Wayne County CMH Agency infant mental health home visiting staff in seven CMH agencies. The following intensive trainings were open to practitioners within and outside of Detroit-Wayne County:

March 15 & 16, 2010, *In My House: Building Cultural Competency*,
Marva Lewis, PhD

July 29 & 30, Aug. 9, 2010, *An Introduction to IMH Principles and Practices*,
Carol Oleksiak, LMSW & Rebecca Wheeler, LMSW

September 30, 2010, *Parenting in the Face of Mental Illness*,
Maria Muzik, MD

Important to note, MI-AIMH also entered into a contract with the Macomb Great Start Collaborative to develop and offer a 5 day, 25 hour, training series to increase knowledge about relationship-based work with infants, toddlers and families as well as a contract with Pathways in West Michigan to offer a 2-day training in social and emotional development.

University of Michigan Student Representatives to the MI-AIMH Board organized a panel about infant mental health for graduate students and community professionals at the University of Michigan School of Social Work on March 9, 2010.

MI-AIMH planned and coordinated reflective supervision groups across the state.

New Materials: Supporting Relationships

Fatherhood Wheel - This new learning tool is designed especially for fathers! Colorful, with pictures of fathers and their infants and toddlers, the wheel encourages nurturing interaction that affects healthy early development. Great for dads and great for groups.

Supporting Relationships for Infants & Toddlers with Two Homes - This second edition booklet summarizes what infants and toddlers need for sound social and emotional development when they live between caregiving families, due to divorce or placement in foster care.

Relationships First, a Training Companion for Baby Stages - This new 8-page training companion emphasizes the importance of early development within the context of caring relationships. These colorful pages are designed to be duplicated, posted or displayed and serve as a practical and important resource for use in a parenting group, staff training, and individual sessions.

Infant Mental Health Starter Kit - All of MI-AIMH's publications specially priced and packaged into one, spectacular training kit!

Publications

The Infant Crier, Jennifer DeSchryver, PsyD, Editor, Sue Eastman, LMSW, Associate Editor

The Infant Crier continues to be published in color and "on line"! Published quarterly, this year's theme was reflective practice. Highlights included articles written by Michael Trout, Patricia Avelini, Bill Schafer, Carla Barron, Genie Madden Lewis, Joan Shirilla, Marcie Kansou, Barbara Walentowski offered professionals who work with babies and families clinically rich material, supportive guidance and reflections about the nature of infant mental health work.

Infant Mental Health Journal, Hiram Fitzgerald, PhD, Editor-in-Chief

Hi Fitzgerald assumed new duties as Editor-in-Chief of the *Infant Mental Health Journal (IMHJ)*, moving the office to East Lansing at Michigan State University and expanding the Associate Editor listing, effective October 1, 2009. The *IMHJ* is an internationally recognized publication, known for its scholarly research articles and clinical content specific to infants, toddlers and their families.

Infant and family advocacy for social issues and social policy

A New Initiative: First Relationships™

A national organization is one of the keys to promoting infant mental health services as an evidence-based practice and obtaining future federal home visiting dollars for infant mental

health services. At this point in time it makes sense to establish a national organization to certify programs and at the same time seeking collaboration with researchers who can contribute to the design of and seek funding for an evaluation of infant mental health home visiting services.

On September 1, 2010, the MI-AIMH Board of Directors authorized Betty Tableman, Fran Jozefowicz and Deborah Weatherston to move forward with the plan to establish a national organization for infant mental health home visiting. It was agreed that the Board of MI-AIMH will establish an interim board of Directors for **First Relationships™** by Spring, 2011. Brooke Foulds has been contracted to work with Betty Tableman to develop the materials.

Detroit-Wayne County – Baby Court

Growing concern about the needs of Detroit infants, very young children and their families who come to the attention of the courts encouraged Detroit Judge Judy Hartsfield to develop a partnership with the Wayne County Department of Human Services (DHS) and the IMH community through Baby Court. MI-AIMH participated as a steering committee member, representing the need and plans for training.

Professional Development Through the MI-AIMH Endorsement for Culturally Sensitive, Relationship-Based Practice Promoting Infant Mental Health®

Endorsement In-State

Brooke Foulds and Priscilla Tait are Endorsement Committee Co-Chairs. Both have earned endorsement as Infant Mental Health Mentors and have provided exceptional leadership and training for many years as MI-AIMH members.

Nichole Paradis, is the Endorsement Coordinator for MI-AIMH who oversees the development and expansion of the nationally recognized work force development efforts for MI-AIMH.

A total of 325 individuals have earned the MI-AIMH Endorsement since its inception and through 2010. This total includes 14 Infant Family Associates, 145 Infant Family Specialists, 66 Infant Mental Health Specialists, 45 Infant Mental Health Mentors and 55 out-of-state professionals at Levels III and IV. The recognition of competency offers a pathway for professional development and opportunities for systems change at all levels of service to families.

Endorsement Licensing Out-of-State

Four new infant mental health affiliates purchased a license to use the MI-AIMH endorsement materials, bringing the total to 13 states who have entered into formal agreement with MI-AIMH by December 31, 2010: Arizona, Alaska, Connecticut, Colorado, Idaho, Indiana, Kansas, Minnesota, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas, Virginia and Wisconsin. A large children's service agency in Florida purchased a license to use the Competency Guidelines to guide staff training for birth to three and family providers in Palm Beach County 3 years ago. Sheryl Goldberg and Deborah Weatherston provided training and technical assistance specific to the competencies and the endorsement process to each new state affiliate.

League of Endorsed States

By mutual agreement, all League of Endorsed State leaders working to promote work force development through the MI-AIMH Endorsement materials participated in monthly phone conference calls to discuss the implementation of the endorsement in their states, as well as to plan the 4th League Leadership Retreat. These calls have helped to forge strong alliances across all participating state affiliates. MI-AIMH staff coordinated and facilitated the calls.

The 4th League Leadership Retreat was held on December 6-7, 2010, in Phoenix two days before ZERO TO THREE's National Training Institute (NTI). Over 55 league leaders participated.

MI-AIMH Endorsement and League leaders from Michigan and Minnesota contributed to the design of a symposium at ZERO TO THREE's NTI, "De-mystifying Reflective Supervision: Practical Approaches to the Process" and a workshop featuring the MI-AIMH Competencies and Endorsement process.

Membership Enhancement

Marvin McKinney Diversity Leadership Fellowship, Patricia Avelini and Marian Orihel, Co-Chairs

New fellows were selected in January 2010, for this prestigious, two-year experience: Rachel Harmon, Marguerite Morgan, Jennifer O'Connor, and Luz Zuniga. As part of the experience, each receives reflective supervision regularly, individually or in a small group.

Former fellows, Karol Wilson and Stefanie Hill continue to lead the reflective supervision group in Detroit-Wayne County, nurturing new voices and leadership in the group. Patricia Avelini contributes her column, *Diversity Matters*, to *The Infant Crier*. The Diversity scholars continue to enrich our understanding of diversity and infant mental health.

Chapter Activities

MI-AIMH has 13 active chapters whose members work in a variety of ways in their respective communities. Each chapter has a unique set of priorities and goals specific to their community and the autonomy to organize training and advocacy activities important to reaching those goals.

Membership

MI-AIMH increased its membership to 513 during 2010!