

Maine Public Health Association



Weekly E-News

February 16th Issue

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The **deadline** for the next MPHA Enews is **Thursday, March 1st** for the March 2nd issue. *There will be no issue of MPHA E-news the week of*

February 19th, please keep that in mind when submitting information.

Please contact Michelle Caliandro with content or questions about this publication at mcaliandro@mainelung.org or 1-800-499-5864 x 103.

Learning Opportunities

Maine Indoor Air Quality Council Training Opportunity

Wanted to share with you an exciting workshop opportunity! The 2007 Maine Indoor Air Quality Conference will be held on Wednesday March 28th from 8:00 to 4:30. Of particular interest is the keynote presentation on "Linking Student and Worker Performance and the Quality of the Indoor Environment" and the noon session addressing the relationship between moisture problems in homes and asthma in children. Concurrent workshops will be offered from 10:00 – 11:30, 1:00-2:30 and 3:00-4:30. Workshop topics for asthma educators include: IAQ in the Prevention and Treatment of Chronic Lung Disease, Are You Missing Something? Another Perspective on IAQ, Indoor Air Quality and Community Health Planning, there are an additional 8 workshops to choose from.

For more information go to the Council's website at www.miaqc.org

For more information contact:

Christine G. Crocker, Executive Director, Maine Indoor Air Quality Council,
PO Box 2438, Augusta, ME 04338-2438, T (207) 626-8115, F (207) 626-9015, E miaqc@zwi.net

Nordic Walking Certification

The Maine Governor's Council on Physical Activity will be holding an Instructor Certification Class for Nordic Walking on **Sunday, March 18, 2007** (for more information on Nordic Walking, go to www.nordicwalking.com/portal/nordic_walking/english/). See class details below. If you are interested in participating, please contact us ASAP. Instructor Certification Class for Nordic Walking

Nordic Walking Continued

- When: Sunday, March 18, 2007
- Where: Medical Care Development, 11 Parkwood Drive, Augusta, Maine
- Time: 9:00 am - 4:30 pm
- Cost: \$100 payable to Exel the day of the training -- cost covers instructor manual and handouts

Registration: To reserve a space at the training, contact Diane Campbell at dianec@mcd.org -- please provide your name, address, phone number, email, and your work site/school site Registration Deadline: Please register no later than March 12, 2007 The class is limited to 15 participants (we must have a minimum of 10 participants to hold the training) Bring your own brown bag lunch Directions to the training will be sent after registration is received.

For more information regarding training details, contact Elanna Farnham at ecfarnham@roadrunner.com or 207-235-2696.

Legislative Information

Legislative Update

MPHA priority areas are:

- Fund for a Healthy Maine;
- Environmental Issues;
- Health Care Access;
- Obesity;
- Tobacco;
- Public Health Infrastructure; and
- Other - as appropriate.

Regarding Legislative activity - A full public hearing schedule through February 16th is available by following this link:

<http://www.state.me.us/legis/senate/Documents/hearing/ANPHFrame.htm>

Legislative Update Continued...

For additional legislative information:

<http://janus.state.me.us/legis/lis/>

For more information regarding MPHA's legislative priorities go to:

mpha@mcd.org

Information

Common Gene Version Optimizes Thinking – But With a Possible Downside

Most people inherit a version of a gene that optimizes their brain's thinking circuitry, yet also appears to increase risk for schizophrenia, a severe mental illness marked by impaired thinking, scientists at the National Institutes of Health's (NIH) National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) have discovered. The seeming paradox emerged from the first study to explore the effects of variation in the human gene for a brain master switch, DARPP-32.

The researchers identified a common version of the gene and showed how it impacts the way two key brain regions exchange information, affecting a range of functions from general intelligence to attention.

See complete press release:

<http://www.nimh.nih.gov/press/darpp-32variations.cfm>

Maine Center for Public Health Annual Meeting ~ March 13, 2007-02-13

“Can Maine Be the Healthiest State in the Nation?” We will discuss challenges and opportunities Tuesday, March 13 from 2-4 p.m. at the Maine Principals' Association Conference and Meeting Center. Speakers will include Leah Binder, Dora Ann Mills, MD, as well as a panel on cancer related activities.

Maine Center for Public Health Continued...

For a brochure and registration information contact: Dani Kallian at 207-629-9272 or dkallian@mcph.org

Deadline for registration is March 5th.

Our Children's Homeland Insecurity

By Michael Petit - February 06, 2007

Michael Petit is president of the Every Child Matters Education Fund. He served as commissioner of Maine's Human Services Department and was deputy director of the Child Welfare League of America.

Steady progress was made for decades during the 20th century in health, education and social indicators for children thanks to long-term public support for federal spending on maternal and child health services, hospitals, medical research, higher education for doctors and nurses and other public health measures. Many of these social gains are now stalled or at risk of being reversed thanks to two myths underpinning conservative political ideology dominant since the early 1980's: first, that the federal government can't do anything right, and second, that taxes are akin to outright thievery.

This ill-conceived ideology accounts for the virtual indifference in much of official Washington toward the plight of millions of American children who are without health insurance, are abused and neglected, are left unsupervised every day after school, or whose parents are caught in a criminal justice system that is crushing families.

Proven programs and policies that could actually reduce these social ills have come under repeated attack starting in the early 1980's. Since 2001 these earlier attacks have expanded. Cuts in federal taxes and their impact on state revenues forced many cuts in child care programs, child support enforcement, health care assistance, Head Start, and more, ignoring decades of documentation showing that more, not less, federal spending on children was needed. The result is a huge investment gap, one producing much worse outcomes for U.S. children and families than found in other rich democracies.

Homeland Insecurity Continued...

The children harmed most by anti-tax/anti-government ideology live in the very states which have embraced it most enthusiastically. Nowhere is this more evident than in Texas, a classic low-tax, low-service state. How effective has this ideology been in Texas? Nationally, Texas ranks:

- 1st in the percentage of uninsured children
- 1st in food insecurity
- 1st in child abuse deaths
- 1st in the number of incarcerated adults
- 2nd in the percentage of the population that goes hungry
- 1st in teen pregnancy
- 5th in the overall poverty rate
- 6th in crime
- 47th in income and food stamps benefits for the neediest
- 50th in the percentage of fully-immunized two-year-olds

Yet the politicians whose harsh policies produce these outcomes stubbornly insist that more tax breaks and more cuts in programs are good for America's children.

In a counterpoint to compassionate conservatism, a new report by Every Child Matters Education Fund, <http://www.everychildmatters.org/index.html> , draws from official data in 11 child-related statistical measures to rank the well-being of children in the states. It shows that the states with the best outcomes for children generally tax themselves at higher rates and make more investments in programs serving children. In these states, more children are insured and enrolled in after-school programs, and they are more likely to be aided if abused. The states with the worst outcomes generally keep taxes lower but at the expense of children and other vulnerable groups who would benefit from publicly financed health and social programs.

Do we know how to reduce child poverty and the other social ills afflicting millions of children and families? We do. The Great Society initiatives of the mid-1960's, for example, helped knock back child poverty to a record-low 14 percent by 1969.

Homeland Insecurity Continued...

Conservative ideologues have taken pains to misrepresent the effectiveness of government poverty programs, loudly proclaiming that only the private sector could help the poor while ignoring evidence that the much lower child poverty rates in other countries are the direct result of public, not private, policies. Most telling, government data show that since the latest round of conservative tax and budget dogma was imposed in 2001, household income has dropped, poverty has increased and health coverage has declined.

If we are going to invest in children's programs, we have to pay for them. Earlier generations of Americans understood that progressive taxes are essential to democracy and its commitment to equal opportunity for all children. The current generation of anti-tax conservatives seems determined to prove our ancestors wrong.

Our children deserve much better.

To see the ranking of states on child well-being, or to download a copy of Homeland Insecurity, visit www.everychildmatters.org.

SAGE Journals Online Free For February

To celebrate, throughout February all content on SAGE Journals Online is accessible for free!

There are two ways to gain access:

If your institution subscribes to one or more SAGE journals, free online access to ALL SAGE journals, including the newly digitized backfile, is available for you, your colleagues, and your students until February 28, 2007. No registration is required. Just visit <http://www.sagepublications.com/sjofreeaccess/> to start accessing articles in your discipline today!

If your institution does not subscribe to any SAGE journals, you can still register for free access at the above site.

Watch Your Mouth: The TV Show!

The Maine Watch Your Mouth Campaign has created a half hour television show, WATCH YOUR MOUTH, featuring a panel of oral health experts. Liz Rogers, Communications Director for Oral Health America; Dr Daniel Summers, Kennebec Pediatrics; and Dr Wendy Wolf ,CEO of the Maine Health Access Foundation, discuss community and policy responses to improving the oral health of Maine citizens, and why these solutions are so critically important.

This show may be seen on every day on Channel 7 Augusta throughout February, at 11:00 AM and 6:30 PM.

If you would like a copy of the show, or have ideas of other stations that would like a copy, please contact Sarah Shed at 622-7566 x 248 or sshed@mcd.org

Career Opportunities

MASAP Seeking Epidemiologist

The Maine Association of Substance Abuse Programs (MASAP), a non-profit membership organization recognized state-wide and nationally as the voice of substance abuse in Maine. MASAP, is seeking an Epidemiologist for a full-time grant funded position to work closely with the Maine Office of Substance Abuse, Strategic Prevention Framework State Incentive Grant Program as well as other data and research programs to analyze and report on substance abuse data, risk and protective factors, and links to morbidity and mortality.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS: A Masters Degree in Epidemiology or closely related field and 2 years professional experience.

To apply, please send a cover letter and resume to: EPI SEARCH, c/o Ruth Blauer, Executive Director, MASAP, 8 Mulliken Court, Augusta, ME 04330

http://www.masap.org/site/employment_detail.asp?job=60

Supporting Our Membership

Nothing posted this issue.



*11 Parkwood Drive
Augusta, Maine 04330
207-622-7566
www.mcph.org/mpha/MPHAindex.html*

