

Tennesseans Teaming Up for Change Statewide Infant Mortality Summit 2012

Breakout Session Speakers

Chad Abresch, MEd

Chad J. Abresch, MEd has been with CityMatCH since 2002 and was appointed to the position of Executive Director at CityMatCH in 2012. He has presented at numerous national conferences and meetings and has been the recipient of the University of Nebraska Medical Center's Chancellor's Council Silver "U" Award as well as the Vital Leadership Pin. He also accepted the Maternal and Child Health Bureau's Director's Award (accepted on behalf of CityMatCH), and the American Public Health Association's Martha May Eliot Award for Effective Practice on behalf of CityMatCH. In addition to his public health work, Mr. Abresch also has a wealth of experience in non-profit mission and management beginning with his graduate thesis and including the start-up of a state-wide (NE) 501(c)3. Mr. Abresch was previously employed at the Wellness Councils of America as Senior Staff Writer, where he authored a wide variety of corporate health promotion literature, and the Gallup Organization, where he won the Gallup U.S. Interviewer Award.

Beth Bailey, PhD

Dr. Beth Bailey joined the Department of Family Medicine in 2003. She is a native of Michigan, holding an undergraduate degree from the University of Michigan, and a Ph.D. in Developmental Psychology and Statistics from Wayne State University in Detroit. Her research interests are broad and include studying the long-term effects of prenatal environments, including exposure to drugs and alcohol, prenatal interventions, domestic violence, child psychopathology, and health disparities.

Since her arrival at ETSU, she has implemented research funded by the university, the March of Dimes, HRSA, the National Institutes of Health, and has been busy managing and assisting with the projects and publishing papers on the findings. She has also been involved in the development of assessment and screening tools to evaluate drug and alcohol use, violence exposure, and behavioral outcomes in primary care settings, and in mentoring fellow faculty in research methods, statistics, and grant writing.

Dr. Bailey serves as the director of the TIPS program (Tennessee Intervention for Pregnancy Smokers), which received state funding to address pregnancy smoking and related issues in Northeast Tennessee. She currently serves as the Research Director for the Appalachian Center for Translational Research Disparities, as a member of the March of Dimes Program Services Committee, and as a member of ETSU's Primary Care Research Day committee. She is also involved in resident training and medical student education.

Laurin Kasehagen, MA, PhD

Laurin Kasehagen, MA, PhD, serves as the CDC assignee/senior MCH epidemiologist to CityMatCH and as an adjunct assistant professor in Pediatrics at the University of Nebraska Medical Center. She coordinates and conducts epidemiologic research, instruction, and evaluation activities on a broad range of maternal, infant, and adolescent health issues, including perinatal periods of risk (PPOR), epidemiologic and data use capacity building, infant mortality and racism, substance-exposed pregnancies, and preconception health for women and adolescents. Dr. Kasehagen has both qualitative and quantitative research and evaluation experience, ranging from adolescent pregnancy to ischemic heart disease. Prior to joining the CDC, Dr. Kasehagen was a CSTE MCH post-doctoral fellow to the state of Oregon where she led the surveillance component of the Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Surveillance System and participated in the development of the Oregon Perinatal Data Book. Dr. Kasehagen continues to have an avid interest in the measurement of exclusive breastfeeding and breastfeeding duration, disparities in infant morbidity and mortality, and issues relating to surveillance system methods.

Lorraine Lathen

Lorraine Lathen is a health advocate with the bulk of her career centered on public health and social marketing. She has spent nearly twenty years providing technical direction to family planning, HIV/AIDS education, and child health initiatives in developing countries and the United States.

Ms. Lathen has lived and worked in Africa where she provided technical support to USAID-sponsored health communication projects. She has engaged in community-based, participatory research on a number of health related topics such as teen pregnancy, HIV/AIDS, smoking cessation, domestic violence, infant mortality, and health disparities in birth, breast, and cervical cancer outcomes. As a member of the United States Non-governmental Delegation to the UN Conference on Women in Beijing, China, Ms. Lathen advocated for the inclusion of women in clinical trials involving HIV/AIDS drug testing.

Ms. Lathen has served as the Co-Chair of the UW School of Medicine and Public Health's Healthy Birth Outcomes Initiative Steering and was recently selected to lead the Wisconsin Partnership Project's effort to improve infant mortality rates in the cities of Milwaukee, Racine, Kenosha and Beloit. Additionally, as the Co-Investigator on the HRSA-funded ABCs for Healthy Families Project, Ms. Lathen supports the Department of Health Services' efforts to eliminate racial and ethnic disparities in birth outcomes.

Ms. Lathen holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Political Science and French from Marquette University and a Master's Degree in International Affairs from American University in Washington, D.C.

Anna Morad, MD

Dr. Anna Morad is an Assistant Professor of Pediatrics and Co-Director of the Newborn Nursery in the Department of Pediatrics at the Vanderbilt University School of Medicine and the Monroe Carrel, Jr. Children's Hospital at Vanderbilt. She provides clinical care in the Division of General Pediatrics in addition to teaching medical students and pediatric housestaff.

Morad earned her MD at the University of Alabama School of Medicine in Birmingham, AL. She subsequently completed her pediatrics residency at the Children's Hospital of Alabama in Birmingham. She is a board-certified pediatrician. Prior to joining the faculty at Vanderbilt, she practiced with Tennessee Pediatrics in Murfreesboro.

Dr. Morad is a member of the Cumberland Pediatric Foundation and the American Medical Association.

Cathy Taylor

Dr. Cathy Taylor is the Dean of the Gordon E. Inman College of Health Sciences and Nursing at Belmont University. She holds a Doctor of Public Health degree from the University of Alabama at Birmingham and completed a post-doctoral fellowship at Vanderbilt University. She earned a Master of Science in Nursing degree from the University of Tennessee, Memphis, a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from the University of Alabama, Huntsville and a Bachelor of Science degree from Middle Tennessee State University.

Dr. Taylor previously served 5 years as Assistant Commissioner for the Tennessee Department of Health's Bureau of Health Services Administration. The Department of Health's Bureau of Health Services Administration is responsible for the administration of Tennessee's 89 rural and six metropolitan county health departments and 13 regional offices, which provide both primary care and prevention services with an emphasis on health promotion, disease prevention and health access activities. In addition, the bureau administers a wide variety of programs including communicable and environmental disease services, maternal and child health, breast and cervical cancer services, general environmental health, oral health, nutrition services and women's health and genetics. As Assistant Commissioner, Dr. Taylor directed development and implementation of successful statewide tobacco cessation and diabetes prevention programs and increased public, private and academic partnerships aimed at improving the health of Tennesseans. As a consultant to China's Ministry of Health, she contributed to the re-design of China's rural health care delivery system.

Prior to joining the Department of Health, Dr. Taylor was an assistant professor of nursing at Vanderbilt University School of Nursing. She has also served as director of the Meharry-Vanderbilt Alliance Disease Management Program, and worked in community health nursing and outreach at Vanderbilt School of Nursing. She has held administrative and clinical positions at Alvin C. York VAMC including occupational health clinical specialist and medical/surgical clinical coordinator. Dr. Taylor has also served in nursing director and supervisor positions at Fentress County Hospital, Middle Tennessee Medical Center and Hendersonville Community Hospital, and as a public health nurse in Fentress and Rutherford Counties.

In November 2006, Dr. Taylor was appointed by Governor Phil Bredesen to chair the Tennessee Center for Diabetes Prevention and Health Improvement Board. In addition, she has served as a consultant on projects for organizations, including the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration's Maternal and Child Health Bureau Leadership Institute and the Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation. Dr. Taylor is a member of the American Diabetes Association, the American Nurses Association and the American Public Health Association. She has earned numerous grants and awards, and her work has been included in professional publications such as *Diabetes Care*, *Maternal and Child Health Journal* and *Concepts and Models for Service Learning in Nursing*.

Michael Warren, MD, MPH, FAAP

Dr. Michael Warren is the Director of the Division of Family Health and Wellness for the Tennessee Department of Health. Warren received his undergraduate degree from Wake Forest University and his medical degree from the Brody School of Medicine at East Carolina University. He completed his pediatrics residency, Chief Residency, and fellowship in Academic General Pediatrics at Vanderbilt, where he also obtained a Master's in Public Health. He is certified by the American Board of Pediatrics.

Dr. Warren oversees numerous child- and family-serving programs in all 95 counties, including Children's Special Services, Family Planning, Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems, Breast and Cervical Cancer Screening, Injury Prevention, Infant Mortality Reduction Initiatives, Child Fatality and Fetal/Infant Mortality Review, Lead Poisoning Prevention, Adolescent Health, Asthma, Newborn Metabolic and Hearing Screening, WIC, and home visitation services provided through the Department of Health. Dr. Warren is also responsible for the CDC-funded chronic disease initiatives in the Department of Health, including those related to diabetes, heart disease, obesity, and rape and violence prevention.

Prior to joining the Department of Health, Dr. Warren served as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Pediatrics at Vanderbilt and as Medical Director in the Governor's Office of Children's Care Coordination, where he provided leadership in statewide infant mortality reduction initiatives. He is actively involved in the community and in 2010 was recognized as the Nashville Emerging Leader in the area of Health and Medical Services.

Janice E. Whitty, MD

Dr. Janice Whitty is the Chief of Obstetrics and Professor and Director of Maternal Fetal Medicine in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at Meharry Medical College in Nashville.

Dr. Whitty has a nursing degree from New York Community College and completed her undergraduate degree in Biology at the Brooklyn College-City University of New York. She attended the College of Medicine, SUNY-Health Science Center at Brooklyn and subsequently completed her residency in Obstetrics and Gynecology at the SUNY Health Science Center at Brooklyn Kings County Hospital. She completed a fellowship in Maternal Fetal Medicine at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine's Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology as well as a

fellowship in Critical Care Medicine in the Department of Anesthesiology at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine's Montefiore Medical Center.

Dr. Whitty has published in numerous peer-reviewed publications including the American Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology, the American Journal of Clinical Nutrition, Pediatrics, Journal of Reproductive Medicine, Journal of Maternal Fetal and Neonatal Medicine, and Obstetrics and Gynecology. She also serves as a member of the Perinatal Advisory Committee for the Tennessee Department of Health.

Kimberlee Wyche-Etheridge, MD, MPH

Dr. Kimberlee Wyche-Etheridge is the Director of the Bureau of Family, Youth and Infant Health for Metro Nashville Davidson County Public Health Department in Nashville, TN. In this capacity, Dr. Wyche-Etheridge oversees 21 programs at the Public Health Department, ranging from school health to home visiting programs. She has introduced programs for at-risk pregnant teens and to promote community health screenings, as well as educational and maternal health programming through area faith-based institutions.

She served as interim chief medical officer for the department, as well as co-director from Sept 06-July 07. In 2003, she founded the Nashville chapter of the Birthing Project, and now serves as the medical director for Birthing Project USA, with chapters in 80 cities and 3 countries. In addition Dr. Wyche Etheridge serves as the current chair of the board of directors for CityMatCH, the only national urban maternal child health organization, and she also serves on the Board of Directors for the National Healthy Start Association. In order to further the mission of the FYI bureau, Dr. Wyche Etheridge has successfully spearheaded the application and receipt of over \$1,000,000 in grants.

She has received numerous local and national awards, including being named outstanding clinician of the year, and one of the top 40 under 40 by the Tennessean newspaper. In addition to the numerous mentorship awards; she was named as one of Nashville's 20 Freedom's Sister in 2010. She is recognized and sought after for her lectures both locally and nationally.

Dr. Wyche-Etheridge received her medical degree from the University of Massachusetts Medical School in Worcester, MA in 1993, and completed her pediatric internship and residency at the Children's National Medical Center in Washington, D.C. in 1996. She received her Masters in Public Health in 2000 from the Harvard School of Public Health while completing a Commonwealth Fund Harvard University Fellowship in minority health policy.