



The **MCIC** Chronicles

MCIC: Formed in 1996 to work toward improving the long-term health of all Mississippians. Over 140 members representing 100 public & private organizations

February 2009

Mississippi Chronic Illness Coalition Newsletter

Vol. 6, No. 1

Alzheimer’s Chapter Sponsors Meeting; Shares Information

The Mississippi Chronic Illness Association membership heard Barbara Dobrosky, program director of the Alzheimer’s Association Mississippi Chapter, and Kathy Van Cleave, director of the Division of Alzheimer’s and Other Dementias, Department of Mental Health, discuss various aspects of Alzheimer’s disease at the Wednesday, Nov. 19, meeting.

Early diagnosis improves care and treatment options, offering individuals more time to make choices to maximize the quality of life, build the right medical team, and gain earlier access to existing medications, programs and services. The 24-hour helpline number is 1-800-272-3900.

The 10 warning signs are memory loss; problems with language; poor judgment; misplacing objects; changes in personality; difficulty performing familiar tasks; disorientation to time and place; problems with abstract thinking; changes in mood or behavior; loss of initiative.

“We appreciate the Alzheimer’s Chapter sponsoring the meeting and providing lunch,” said Mary Helen Conner, MCIC chair. “It was a special meeting.”



Barb Dobrosky and Ian MacDonald of the Alzheimer’s Association Mississippi Chapter discuss Alzheimer’s disease materials with Kathy Van Cleave, director of the Division of Alzheimer’s and Other Dementias, Department of Mental Health.

MCIC Agenda

February 18, 2009 11:00—2:00

Osborne Auditorium

Welcome/ Introductions.....Mary Helen Conner

Cardiovascular Disease and Stroke

Dr. Clay Hays

Delta Chronic Disease Project Update

Cassandra Dove

Health Information Privacy & Security Collaboration Provider Education Toolkit

Mary Helen Conner

Know Your Numbers for Children...Ann Sansing

Committee break-out sessions-discussion of plans for 2009

Lunch: Mississippi State Department of Health Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention Program

Committee Reports

Old Business.....

*Update on the MCIC Bank Account at Regions Bank in Madison
Funding Sources/ Donations/Grants
Capitol Day Report*

New Business.....

Cancer Coalition Partnering . . .Deirdre Rogers

Sponsor and agenda items for next meeting

Announcements/Partner reports

Next meeting May 20, 2009, Osborne Auditorium

Meeting Evaluation and Adjournment

January 15, 2009



**MCIC's
Capitol Day**



Sen. Hillman Frazier and Rep. John Mayo are provided KYN knowledge by Ann Sansing and John Justice.



Urmila Mota, Lorrie Davis, Margrett Davis and Aundria Range greet Advocacy Counselor Vicki Killingsworth of Prentiss.



Deirdre Rogers, Millicent Shelby and John Justice share materials.



(Left photo) Barb Dobrosky and Margrett Davis visit with Sen. Alan Nunnelee and Rep. Alyce Clarke. (Right photo) Rep. Steve Holland greets Margrett Davis, Aundria Range, Urmila Mota, Mary Helen Conner, Barb Dobrosky.



Save the Date
 Next MCIC Meeting to be held
February 18, 2009
10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
 Osbourne Auditorium Health Department



The MCIC CHRONICLES February 2009
 Prepared courtesy of
 Information & Quality Healthcare (IQH),
 James S. McIlwain, MD, President
 Carole Kelly, IQH Communications, Editor,
 MCIC Public Relations/Membership Chair

The Mississippi Rural Health Association (MRHA) serves as the fiscal agent for MCIC.

Health Talk



Dr. Eric E. Lindstrom of Laurel and John Justice, MSDH, Health Data and Research, are shown in the Capitol Rotunda. Physicians with the Mississippi State Medical Association and the MSMA Alliance sponsored the Capitol Screening Initiative 4 (CSI 4) and shared the Rotunda with MCIC Jan. 15. Dr. Lindstrom is a former MSMA president.

Mississippi launches virtual toolkit, encourages health information exchange

A federal initiative aims to encourage participation in electronic health information exchange technology by providing physicians with the tools they need to get connected.

The Health Information Security & Privacy Collaboration Provider Education Toolkit, launched Jan. 15 in eight pilot states, focuses on safe, private and secure health information exchange technology for providers. Mississippi's quality improvement organization for Medicare, Information & Quality Healthcare (IQH), has partnered with the Mississippi Academy of Family Physicians (MAFP) to raise awareness in the state's medical community.

The Web-based toolkit, found at www.Secure4Health.org, provides information on electronic health information exchange and offers tools and resources to help physicians get connected electronically. Physicians also can free earn continuing medical education credits while learning more about electronic health information exchange, electronic health record systems, and related privacy and security benefits. The initiative consists of a pilot project that runs from January to March 2009. To evaluate its impact on physicians and the medical community, the Health Information Security & Privacy Collaboration

Capitol Day 2009 Volunteers



Among members reporting for Capitol Day duty were, from the left, Mary Helen Conner, Margrett Davis, Ann Sansing, Sandra Shelson, Jennifer Cofer, Barb Dobrosky, Aundria Range, John Justice, Millicent Shelby, and Carole Kelly. MCIC and the Capitol Screening Initiative provided vital health messages and tests for legislators and staff. Mary Helen expressed thanks to all members for their enthusiasm and energy devoted to the annual Capitol Day event.

will analyze Web site traffic and the number of physicians and nurse practitioners taking advantage of free continuing medical education credits.

The Provider Education Toolkit is the result of work completed by the Health Information Security & Privacy Collaboration, a multi-year project launched in 2006 by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The collaboration is composed of 42 states and territories and addresses issues pertinent to electronic health information exchange through multi-state collaboration.

The Web site www.Secure4Health.org offers more information about the initiative.

Feb. 25 Workshop to Focus on Stroke

The American Heart Association and the American Stroke Association will present a "Get With The Guidelines" continuing education program Feb. 25 at the University of Mississippi Student Union, 2500 North State Street, Jackson. "The Nature of Excellence: The New Millennium of Stroke Care" will begin at 7:30 a.m. and continue through 4:30 p.m.

"Get With The Guidelines" is a hospital-based program that focuses on care team protocols designed to improve patient outcomes. Register online at www.register.GWTG.americanheart.org.

NICHQ Sets March Conference to Discuss Trends in Children's Healthcare

Cambridge, MA-- The National Initiative for Children's Healthcare Quality (NICHQ) has announced its prediction of the key changes for children's healthcare in the coming year. NICHQ's 8th Annual Forum for Improving Children's Healthcare, being held from March 9-12, at the Gaylord Texan Resort in Grapevine, Texas, near Dallas/Fort Worth, will address these trends as part of the conference agenda.

"With the highest infant mortality in the developed world, unacceptable medical errors, more than ten million children uninsured or underinsured and an obesity epidemic that threatens the long term health of our nation, we need to change the trajectory for health and healthcare for America's children," stated NICHQ CEO, Charles Homer MD, MPH. "We are very optimistic we will see real progress in the coming year."

According to NICHQ, the top trends in children's healthcare that the US can expect to see in 2009 include:

- Expansion of health insurance coverage through State Children's Health Insurance Program to assure coverage of nearly all children;
- Renewed emphasis on public health and prevention, especially related to obesity, emergency preparedness and early childhood education;
- Investments in healthcare information technology, with some component earmarked to address children's healthcare needs;
- Reinvestment in primary care;
- Performance measures and accountability for Medicaid/State Children's Health Insurance Program; and
- Renewed national focus on maternal care, maternal mortality and prematurity, all of which will influence children's health.

The 8th Annual Forum for Improving Children's Healthcare will bring together nearly 1,000 healthcare professionals of all disciplines to improve children's healthcare quality. Sessions will be facilitated by experts from pediatric hospitals and clinics nationwide and will cover patient safety, childhood obesity, chronic conditions, and quality improvement, linked to finance, advocacy and equity in care.

The Forum will also offer keynote presentations from Lucian Leape MD, a pediatric surgeon and adjunct professor of Health Policy, Harvard School of Public Health; Blair L. Sadler, senior fellow, Institute for Healthcare Improvement; J. Hoxi Jones, strategic partnership specialist, State of Texas Health and Human Services Commission; and Edward O'Neil PhD, MPA, FAAN, professor in the Departments of Family and Community Medicine, University of California, San Francisco. In addition, conference sessions will highlight cross cutting themes of family engagement, promoting equity and translation of evidence into practice.

The Forum is targeted to healthcare professionals including quality improvement professionals; health care leaders; physicians and physician assistants; nurses and nurse practitioners; medical directors; safety net providers; managed care professionals; public health professionals; government leaders; pediatric pharmacists; grant foundation program officers; AAP/AAFP chapter executives and staff; parents of children with special health care needs; child and family advocates; and pediatric publications.

To register for the Forum, please visit

www.nichq.org.

The National Initiative for Children's Healthcare Quality (NICHQ) is an independent, action-oriented nonprofit organization solely dedicated to improving the quality of healthcare provided to children, youth and families.

