



The Newsletter of
**The Indiana Association for Infant and Toddler
Mental Health**

From The Chair

As Thanksgiving approaches, we pause to appreciate the great support we received from our state partners this year. This support allows IAITMH to implement a variety of programs designed to reach our mission of “advancing the conditions that provide an early start toward optimal mental health” and to take steps toward our goal that young children in Indiana will have access to mental health services in their home communities. We recognize the support of the Division of Mental Health and Addiction toward the development and implementation of the Early Childhood Mental Health Intensive; Indiana State Department of Health, the Indiana Head Start Collaborative, and the Department of Child Services for their support of the IAITMH Endorsement, the Indiana State Department of Health and the IU School of Social Work for their support of upcoming graduate level courses in infant mental health, and the collaboration of the Bureau of Child Development and the Indiana Association for Child Care Resource and Referral in presenting Infant Mental Health Modules. We expect that 2011 will be just as active and productive as 2010 and look forward to seeing many of you participate in these planned training events. Happy Holidays! Angela M. Tomlin, Ph.D., HSPP

Update on IMH Endorsement in Indiana

On August 1, 2010, the Indiana Association for Infant & Toddler Mental Health purchased the Michigan Association for Infant Mental Health (MI-AIMH) Competencies and Endorsement process. This purchase and implementation was made possible through support from the Indiana State Department of Health’s Sunny Start project, the Indiana Head Start Collaboration, and the Department of Child Services. Indiana is now one of 13 states to participate in the Endorsement process. IAITMH Board members Angela Tomlin, PhD and Stephan Viehweg, LCSW will travel to Phoenix in December to participate in League of States activities related to the Endorsement.

Endorsement is a voluntary process that individuals can use to document their education, supervision, and training related to supporting the social and emotional capacities of very young children and their families. Many different providers can choose to participate in Indiana’s Endorsement, including child care professionals, First Steps providers, Early Head Start workers, Healthy Families workers, psychologists, social workers, physicians, judges, faculty, and others. Endorsement supports competency based training, places an emphasis on continuing education, and provides a mechanism for providers to organize and clarify their own experiences related to early childhood social emotional development. As Indiana moves forward in the Endorsement process, information will be available at the website, iaitmh.org.

REFLECTIONS

**Fall
2010**

Vol. 4, No.4

*A Subsidiary of
Mental
Health America
Indiana, Inc.*

Autism Screening Research Conducted

National data suggest that many children do not receive routine screening for autism spectrum disorders from primary medical providers. Therefore, other providers, such as home visitors, can be important in identifying young children with potential delays. To obtain information about autism screening practices in Indiana, faculty and students from the Riley Child Development Center (RCDC) LEND and the Christine Sarkine Autism Treatment Center (CSATC) at Indiana University School of Medicine partnered to conduct a survey of early care and intervention provider practices. Additional data collection and analysis are ongoing, so preliminary data will be presented here. When completed, results of these surveys can be used to estimate current practices in ASD screening in Indiana, and to assist in implementing Indiana's Comprehensive Plan to Guide Services for Individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorders.

A convenience sample of early care and early intervention providers who were attending a total of 8 training events across Indiana were asked to complete the survey. The surveys were made available to participants at sign-in stations upon arrival for the training event. The trainers requested that participants complete the surveys. Completed surveys were turned in at central locations near the registration tables. In all, 242 of 690 possible participants returned their surveys, for a participation rate of 35.1%. Most participants were female and white. About 60% of participants were First Steps providers, 30% Healthy Families workers and close to 10% were from Early Head Start. Over 60% had 9 or more years experience working with young children and their families.

Preliminary results indicated that these providers do not typically conduct autism screenings. Providers did not typically report doing screening on a routine basis; instead they were more likely to conduct screening when questions arise. Furthermore, those that reported that they do screen were not likely to use a screening tool. Behaviors that providers identified as red flags for possible autism included language delays and low eye contact. Few providers identified low joint attention skills as a red flag.

The survey results should be considered within the context of the American Academy of Pediatrics recommendation that children receive two autism specific screenings before 24 months. More frequent screenings are appropriate when children are at risk for autism due to family history or other delays. The results of this study support the notion more emphasis on screening is needed in Indiana. At a recent regional Autism Summit sponsored by the Centers for Disease Control and hosted by the Riley Child Development Center LEND and the Indiana Autism Resource Center, the Indiana team identified early screening as a priority goal. Members of the Indiana delegation endorsed the importance of both autism and developmental screening. Recommended tools included the Ages and Stages Questionnaires-2nd Edition (ASQ-2) and the Modified Checklist for Autism in Toddlers (MCHAT).

MCHAT lead author Diana Robins, PhD continues to make the tool available free of charge. For the forms, scoring instructions, and other information about the MCHAT, go to the Official MCHAT Website at: http://www2.gsu.edu/~psydlr/Diana_L_Robins_Ph.D..html

Dr. Darlene Kardatzke Tribute

Dear Colleagues,

Sadly we say goodbye to a wonderful, dedicated leader in our community. Dr. Darlene Kardatzke passed away early Monday, October 25, 2010. She was surrounded by her family. Darlene had been battling cancer for several years although continued to support many efforts and celebrate the many accomplishments of the early childhood community.

Dr. Kardatzke was honored as the Riley Child Development Center's *Dr. Morris Green Distinguished Leadership Award* recipient at the 40th anniversary celebration in June 2010. In recognition of her accomplishments and contributions, the following was highlighted in the leadership awards program: "As one of only 6 board-certified developmental-behavioral pediatricians in Indiana, Darlene Kardatzke epitomizes a passion for very young children with special health care needs with her work with babies and families in the section of Developmental Pediatrics at Riley Hospital for Children and Indiana University School of Medicine. As a founding Board member of the Indiana Association for Infant and Toddler Mental Health, she has played a major role in the association since its inception as well as in the success of a myriad of related state initiatives. In countless ways, Dr. Kardatzke "gives a voice" to individual babies and their families as well as sounding a call to address the needs of young children across Indiana. She is a tireless and powerful advocate for babies, toddlers and families in Indiana. As a writer, a teacher of the next generation of professionals, and as a direct provider of services to families and children, she exemplifies the ideals and aspirations of Dr. Morris Green, founding Director of the Riley Child Development Center. We are grateful for her ongoing efforts to improve the lives of children with special health care needs and their families." In December 2009 she was honored with the Lifetime Achievement Award from Mental Health America Indiana at the annual Indianapolis Heroes in the Fight Luncheon. Nominated by fellow IAITMH board member, Lynne Sturm, Ph.D., Darlene was recognized for her work in clinical service, teaching, and advocacy. She was noted for her efforts in raising awareness of the mental health needs of babies and toddlers in a unique way that included awareness of prevention and of the need for treatment.



As the founding Chairperson (Steve) and current Chair (Angie) of the Indiana Association for Infant and Toddler Mental Health we will always be grateful for Darlene's steady voice and guidance. Her contributions to our success are innumerable and will forever be woven into the fabric of Indiana's efforts to enhance the social emotional development of our youngest citizens. Thank you Darlene!

You can read more about Darlene's path in her and her family's words at <http://www.caringbridge.org/visit/dkardatzke>. We send our best wishes and peaceful thoughts to Darlene's family as we acknowledge our gratitude for all she gave to us individually and to our important work with young children.

Steve Viehweg and Angie Tomlin

In 2010 Darlene's friends and colleagues in the Section of Developmental Pediatrics at the Indiana University School of Medicine began a lectureship in her honor. The inaugural Darlene Sayers Kardatzke Lectureship in Early Childhood Mental Health was August 18 and featured speaker Charles Zeanah, MD. The Department plans to continue to the program annually. Donations to the Lectureship are appreciated and can be sent to: Riley Children's Foundation at http://www.rileykids.org/help_riley/.

TRAINING CALENDAR

Zero To Three National Training Institute,
December 9-11, 2010, Phoenix, AZ, <http://www.zerotothree.org>.

THE Institute for Strengthening Families,
April, 11-13, 2011, Indianapolis, IN

Infant Toddler Specialist Initiative, Sep-
tember 8 and 9 2011, Fort Benjamin Har-
ris, Indianapolis, IN

The IMH Task Force will transition to the IMH Supervision Group beginning with a meeting on January 7, 2011 from 1 to 3 PM at the Riley Child Development Center. The Supervision Group will meet once per month and will be led by Angie Tomlin, who currently holds Level 4 Endorsement through the Michigan Association for Infant Mental Health. Participation in the IMH Supervision Group can help meet the requirement for Reflective Supervision as part of the activities needed for the IAITMH Endorsement. To join the group or for more information, contact Angie Tomlin at atomlin@iupui.edu.

Join the IAITMH!

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State, Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

- | | |
|--|-------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Professional | \$50 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family/Retired Professional | \$25 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Student | \$15 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Donation | _____ |

Please make your check payable to IAITMH
*1431 N. Delaware Street
Indianapolis, Indiana 46202*

Health Screening in Foster Care

A recent survey of state welfare agencies identifying the successes and challenges in provision of screenings for physical, mental and dental health concerns in children entering foster care was published by the Center for Health Care Strategies this month. These screenings are important as children in foster care are more vulnerable to physical and mental health conditions than other children. Almost all states require at least one of these screenings and more than half of states require all three. In Indiana, physical, behavioral, and dental health assessments are required within 10, 5, and 10 days, respectively, of entry into foster care. Of the three, only in-depth behavioral health assessments are specifically required within 10 days—in-depth physical and dental health assessment are required as needed.

This research was supported by the Annie E. Casey Foundation and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. Read the full report at: http://www.chcs.org/usr_doc/CHCS_CW_Foster_Care_Screening_and_Assessment_Issue_Brief_111910.pdf

This bulletin was recommended by the IAITMH Advocacy Committee. To be part of the Advocacy Committee, contact Dr. Sturm at lsturm@iupui.edu.