HEALTHY MOTHERS, HEALTHY BABIES
Coalition of Georgia

HMHB Resource Watch
July 11, 2007

HMHB Upcoming Events

As an added benefit to membership we have decided to extend an invitation to the Sponsors and Friends Appreciation Gala to the first 10 HMHB Members and a guest who respond to this Resource Watch. Please RSVP to Jessica Hawkins via jessica.hawkins@hmhbga.org for this event.

Keep checking out our website www.hmhbga.org for more events. If you know of any events that are not listed, please contact us at 770.451.0020.

Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies Coalition of Georgia
2007 Annual Meeting and Conference
Wednesday, October 3, 2007
9:00 am- 4:00 pm.

Freight Room
Georgia Railroad Freight Depot
65 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive SW
Atlanta, GA. 30303

News from National HMHB

This week: June 25, 2007

By now, most of you have heard of last week's horrific accident at a wading pool, which tore the intestines of a 6-year old girl. Her life-altering injuries are a terrible reminder of the hidden dangers that pool and hot tub drains present, especially for small children. According to the Consumer Products Safety Commission, the pressure on some pool drains can be as strong as 300 pounds per square inch.
A new addition to HMHB's Q & A series offers an interview on "Keeping Kids Safe in and Around the Water." Go to http://www.hmhb.org/ to learn about the many issues surrounding this topic.

This Week:

1) Mothers' Index 2007 Looks at Best & Worst Around the World
2) CPS Recommends Universal Bilirubin Blood Test for Newborns
3) CDC Survey Finds Little Understanding of Folic Acid's Preconception Role
4) New Resources for those Working with Children & Adolescents Exposed to Violence, Disaster
5) July 17 Event to Introduce Findings of Child Wellbeing Index
6) Florida to Support Healthy Start Efforts & Fund Research on Infant Mortality Disparities
7) GrantCraft Site Offers Web-Based Wisdom

MATERNAL-INFANT HEALTH NEWS

1) MOTHERS' INDEX 2007 LOOKS AT BEST & WORST AROUND THE WORLD
Save the Children has released its Eighth Annual Mothers' Index, documenting the living conditions and wellbeing of mothers and their children in 140 countries around the world, including 41 developed nations and 99 developing nations. The top 10 best overall places for mothers and children are (in order from first to 10th): Sweden, Iceland, Norway, New Zealand, Australia, Denmark, Finland, Belgium, Spain and Germany. The worst ranking nations at the bottom of the list include Djibouti, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Angola, Guinea-Bissau, Chad, Yemen, Sierra Leone and Niger. The United States ranks in between the best and the worst, at number 26. Measures determining the rankings consider both maternal and child health and wellbeing, looking at areas such as mortality, healthcare access and births attended by skilled health personnel, child weight, access to clean water, political status, economic status and educational opportunity. To download the complete 2007 index, go to http://www.savethechildren.org/publications/mothers/2007/Mothers-Index-2007.pdf.

2) CPS RECOMMENDS UNIVERSAL BILIRUBIN TEST FOR NEWBORNS
The Canadian Pediatric Society (CPS) has released new jaundice management guidelines that include the universal use of a bilirubin test to detect and monitor symptoms of severe jaundice that, when left untreated, can pose serious and health risks to newborn babies. The bilirubin blood test now recommended by the Canadian Pediatric Society requires just a pinprick to the heel to test the levels of bilirubin in a newborn's blood. Current show that 60 percent of all newborns experience jaundice in some form, and two percent will develop severe jaundice characterized by high bilirubin levels. While most cases of jaundice clear up on their own, more serious cases require treatment. And if undiagnosed or diagnosed too late, severely jaundiced babies can develop kernicterus – a condition characterized by long-term neurological injury. For the CPS guidelines, go to http://www.cps.ca/english/statements/FN/fn07-02.htm.

3) CDC SURVEY FINDS LITTLE UNDERSTANDING OF FOLIC ACID'S PRECONCEPTION ROLE

A survey just released by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and using the state of Oklahoma as a case study finds that many American women still do not know about the importance of folic acid both before and during pregnancy to help prevent birth defects. The survey found that 78 percent of Oklahoma women did not take multivitamins four times per week or more during the month before they conceived – even though 78 percent of Oklahoma women who delivered in 2000-2003 said they were aware of folic acid's importance. Among the survey's other findings: 72 percent of women who planned to become pregnant did not consult a healthcare provider for pre-conception counseling. According to editors of the CDC report, these findings may prove useful in reaching out to women with the preconception folic acid method, and "efforts to promote preconception health should target all women of reproductive age who are capable of becoming pregnant." For the survey overview in the Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR), go to http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5625a3.htm.

CHILD, ADOLESCENT, FAMILY & COMMUNITY HEALTH NEWS

4) NEW RESOURCES FOR THOSE WORKING WITH CHILDREN & ADOLESCENTS EXPOSED TO VIOLENCE, DISASTER

A three-part series of booklets from the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) helps parents, grandparents, professionals who work with children and adolescents, teachers, clergy, and first-responder rescue workers as they cope with the effects of violence and disaster. It covers how children of different developmental stages and ages react to traumatic experience, and how adults can best address their needs and behaviors in the days and weeks immediately following an event. These three resources are available for download. Go to http://www.nimh.nih.gov/publicat/helping-children-and-adolescents-cope-with-violence-and-disasters/community-members.cfm

5) JULY 17 EVENT TO INTRODUCE FINDINGS OF CHILD WELLBEING INDEX

On July 17 at 10:30 a.m. in Washington, DC, the New America Foundation will host an event to announce and review findings from the new Foundation for Child Development and Child Wellbeing Index (CWI). The discussion of this comparison on child health and wellbeing will be led by Dr. Kenneth Land of Duke University, with a moderated panel of experts from the US and abroad. The research-based CWI looks at the status of children in the US over the past 30 years. And for the first time in its history, the new CWI also examines the status of American children related to children in other developed nations. It is a tool to help policymakers and the public monitor the wellbeing of children on measures such as obesity, poverty rates, and suicide and violent crime rates, sparking public discussion about factors that affect their quality of life. For more about the event or to RSVP, go to http://www.newamerica.net/events/2007/child_well_being_america_and_abroad.

ADVOCATES IN ACTION

6) FLORIDA TO SUPPORT HEALTHY START EFFORTS & FUND RESEARCH ON INFANT MORTALITY DISPARITIES

Last week Governor Charlie Crist of Florida signed a bill to fund research investigating the cause of high infant mortality rates among racial/ethnic minorities in the state. According to a staff analysis from Crist's office, Florida's infant mortality rate in 2005 was 12.5 deaths per 1,000 live births among minorities, compared with just 5.3 deaths per 1,000 live births among whites. The bipartisan-backed law gives a one-time, $1 million research grant to discover the cause of the disparity, as well as to fund two or more Healthy Start coalitions in parts of Florida where the black infant mortality rate is nearly twice that of whites. For more on Healthy Start's work, go to http://www.healthy-start.com.

NONPROFIT MANAGEMENT RESOURCE

7) GRANTCRAFT SITE OFFERS WEB-BASED WISDOM

Web-based resource GrantCraft specializes in "practical wisdom for grantmakers" – but the site can be a helpful tool for grant-seekers, as well. For grantmakers, they offer materials and a virtual community

where experienced reps from foundations share their wisdom with peers who are working to best manage their own resources. For grant-seekers, though, they offer crossover resources like the Funders Collaborative Companion Guide. It helps both grantor and grantee form and sustain positive, productive relationships that advance their goals. The GrantCraft site also offers free downloads and email updates that may be valuable to grant-seekers. Get started at http://www.grantcraft.org.

Sources:
http://www.savethechildren.org
http://www.cps.ca
http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr
http://www.nimh.nih.gov
http://www.newamerica.net
http://www.doh.state.fl.us
http://www.grantcraft.org

Information is reported as provided and does not necessarily represent the view of or the endorsement by the National Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies Coalition. A complete copy of HMHB's disclaimer is available on the HMHB Web site at http://www.hmhb.org/disclaimer.html

Last week: July 2, 2007

1) New Findings on Antidepressant Use During Pregnancy
2) Study: Toddlers Most at Risk for Serious Injury on Elevators
3) CDC Advisory Committee Expands Recommendation on Adolescent Meningitis Vaccination
4) FDA & The Cartoon Network Partner to Fight Tween Obesity
5) Case Foundation Invites Public Into Grantmaking Process
6) Free Resource: The Nonprofit Communication Blog
7) RAND Health Opening for Bilingual Project Associate

MATERNAL-INFANT HEALTH NEWS

1) NEW FINDINGS ON ANTIDEPRESSANT USE DURING PREGNANCY
Two large-scale studies just published in The New England Journal of Medicine found that taking antidepressant drugs known as SSRIs (selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors) during pregnancy did not significantly increase the overall risk for most birth defects. They did, however, find that taking SSRIs during pregnancy was associated with a small increase in the risk of certain rare birth defects. One study was conducted by researchers at the University of British Columbia and the National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities (NCBDDD) at the CDC, and the other by a team at Boston University. Dr. Michael Katz, Acting Medical Director for the March of Dimes, said the studies show how important post-market surveillance is, saying, “Most prescription drugs are not tested on pregnant women. So we must start monitoring the effects of these medications as soon as they reach consumers, and keep monitoring for as long as it takes to get good data on risks to mothers and babies.” The March of Dimes recommends that women discuss risks and benefits of taking SSRIs during pregnancy with their doctors, and that women who are taking an antidepressant should not stop their medication if they discover they are pregnant, but should contact their healthcare provider. For the abstracts of these studies, go to http://content.nejm.org/cgi/content/short/356/26/2675 and http://content.nejm.org/cgi/content/short/356/26/2684.

CHILD, ADOLESCENT, FAMILY & COMMUNITY HEALTH NEWS

2) STUDY: TODDLERS MOST AT RISK FOR SERIOUS INJURY ON ELEVATORS
The first large-scale epidemiological study looking at elevator injuries among children finds that nearly 30,000 American kids were seriously injured on elevators between 1990 and 2004 – with one- and two-year-olds most at risk. The study, to be published in the journal Clinical Pediatrics, uses data from the US Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC). Injuries most commonly occurred when an elevator door closed on a child's hand or arm, though nearly one-quarter of young children suffered head injuries. Very few of the injuries in this data resulted from elevator malfunction, suggesting that many incidents could have been prevented with closer adult supervision. According to the authors, adjusting elevator sensors so that they can pick up the pressure from a child's small hand could also help prevent injuries. For more on the study, go to http://www.medicine.indiana.edu/news_releases/viewRelease.php4?art=708.

3) CDC ADVISORY COMMITTEE EXPANDS RECOMMENDATION ON ADOLESCENT MENINGITIS VACCINATION
Last week the CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommended that all teens between the ages of 11 and 18 be routinely vaccinated against potentially deadly bacterial meningitis. The recommendation broadens the current guidelines for immunizing adolescents, and is expected to be adopted by the CDC. Earlier recommendations on meningitis targeted only 15- to 18-year olds only because vaccine supplies were limited, according to Dr. Carol Baker, chairwoman of the committee's Meningococcal Working Group. The vaccine, Menactra (MCV4), has proven to protect against up to 83 percent of meningococcal cases among teens, according to the National Meningitis Association, which is applauding the new recommendations. For more details, go to http://www.nmaus.org/pdf/press_statements/NMA-ACIP-Recommendations-Statement.pdf.

4) FDA & THE CARTOON NETWORK PARTNER TO FIGHT TWEEN OBESITY
The US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has teamed up with Time Warner's Cartoon Network to target "tweens" with nutrition and health information to combat obesity. The collaborative campaign incorporates both Internet and on-air elements, including PSAs featuring targeted messages and Cartoon Network characters; a website with streaming video spots, an interactive nutrition block and a downloadable desktop "widget"; a campaign on the Cartoon Network's main website; and a presence at the Cartoon Network's "Get Animated" community events. The estimated total reach is 85 million young consumers. For more about the campaign, go to http://www.cfsan.fda.gov/~dms/spotov.html.

ADVOCATES IN ACTION

5) CASE FOUNDATION INVITES PUBLIC INTO GRANTMAKING PROCESS
The Case Foundation has announced that it wants the public to play a direct role in deciding how some of its grant dollars are awarded, asking individuals and local nonprofit groups to send in ideas on improving their communities by August 8, 2007. A panel of judges will select 100 of the best ideas and request a more formal proposal. From that pool, another panel of judges will award $20,000 to each of 20 proposals. And in November 2007, the foundation will invite the public to vote on the finalist proposals, with the four receiving the most votes being awarded an additional $25,000. To apply for this innovative grant program, go to http://www.casefoundation.org/make-it-your-own/awards.

NONPROFIT MANAGEMENT RESOURCE

6) FREE RESOURCE: THE NONPROFIT COMMUNICATION BLOG
Blogs are a free source of information and networking in the nonprofit sector. The Nonprofit Communication Blog, authored by consultant Kivi Leroux Miller, is one such resource aimed at nonprofit managers. It focuses on communication strategies ranging from creating and disseminating effective newsletters to leveraging email wisely. Miller also has a special focus on helping nonprofits with writing annual reports. To check out the Nonprofit Communication Blog, go to. http://www.writing911.com/blog.

JOB OPPORTUNITY

7) RAND HEALTH OPENING FOR BILINGUAL PROJECT ASSOCIATE
RAND Health, a division of the nonprofit RAND Corporation in Santa Monica, California, is seeking a full-time bilingual (English/Spanish) Project Associate to work on community health research. The associate will perform research support tasks, providing both quantitative and qualitative support to projects and carrying out analytic tasks in their areas of expertise. For more information on this position and to apply online, go to http://www.rand.org/jobs, then click "Find a job at RAND" and enter 1980 into the "Job Opening ID" box in the "Advanced Search" section.

Sources:
http://www.marchofdimes.com
http://www.medicine.indiana.edu
http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/recs/acip
http://www.cfsan.fda.gov
http://www.casefoundation.org
http://www.writing911.com/blog
http://www.rand.org

Information is reported as provided and does not necessarily represent the view of or the endorsement by the National Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies Coalition. A complete copy of HMHB's disclaimer is available on the HMHB Web site at http://www.hmhb.org/disclaimer.html

Other Public Health News

Excerpt from Obituary for Lucile "Tee Rae" Melton Dismukes
For those of you who have been long-time friends of maternal and child health in Georgia; HMHB is grieved to hear of Tee Rae Dismukes death on June 30, 2007. She was a soldier in the maternal and child health field and she will be greatly missed. Please see more information below:

Lucile "Tee Rae" Melton Dismukes, born July 21, 1929 in the Dominican Republic to American parents, died June 30, 2007 in Alabaster, AL. She grew up in Plaquemine, LA and earned her nursing degree from Vanderbilt University and her Master's in Nursing from Emory University. Her passion was public health, and she dedicated her career to securing the availability of adequate prenatal care for mothers and their babies, particularly for those who could not afford it. From the cornfields in rural Georgia to the statehouse in Atlanta, Tee Rae championed this cause, and served as Executive Director on The Council on Maternal and Infant Health for the state of Georgia from 1977 to 1997. Her concern for public health continued even in death, when she donated her brain to UAB for neurological research.

There will be a memorial service Friday, July 6 at 1:00 pm at the Episcopal Church of the Holy Spirit, 858 Kent Dairy Road, Alabaster, AL. In lieu of flowers please make donations in Tee Rae's memory to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105, Tribute #12099436 or the Shelby County Humane Society, PO Box 210, Columbiana, AL 35051.

July is……

1st – 31st
Hemochromatosis Awareness Month
Iron Disorders Institute
www.irondisorders.org

1st – 31st
International Group B Strep Awareness Month
Group B Strep International
www.groupbstrepinternational.org

1st – 31st
National Group B Strep Awareness Month
www.thejessecause.org

1st - 31st
UV Safety Month
American Academy of Ophthalmology
www.aao.org

10th – 14th
National Youth Sports Week
National Recreation and Park Association
www.nrpa.org

Public Health Conferences and Events

July

July 11-13
Title: Ovarian Cancer National Alliance's 10th Annual Conference: A Decade of Action, A Future of Hope: Agenda for Action
City: Washington, D.C.
Location: Omni Shoreham Hotel
Email: www.ovariancancer.org

July 16-20
Title: Virology Methods for Public Health Laboratories
City: Madison, WI
Location: Genetics Biotechnology Center at U of W Madison, WI
Email: margaret.hoff@doh.wa.gov

July 19-20
Title: International Bordetella Pertussis Assay Harmonization and Standardization Meeting
City: Atlanta, GA
Location: 1600 Clifton Road, Building 19
Email: fxj5@cdc.gov

August

Aug 9
Title: American Kidney Fund (AKF) Regional Conference, "Empowering Patients to Overcome Barriers to Adherence"
City: Atlanta, GA
Location: Loudermilk Conference Center
Email: conferences@kidneyfund.org

Aug 13-17

Title: 2007 UW Summer Institute for Public Health Practice
City: Seattle, WA
Location: University of Washington William H. Gates Law School
Email: sanjose@u.washington.edu

Aug 13-17
Title: CDC Cancer Conference
Location: Hyatt Regency Hotel Downtown
City: Atlanta, GA
Email: jreese@cdc.gov

Aug 27-29
Title: Public Health Information Network (PHIN) Conference
City: Atlanta, GA.
Location: Omni Hotel, CNN Center
Email: phin2007@cdc.gov
Website: www.cdc.gov/phin

Aug 23-27
2007 Minority Women's Health Summit
Location: Hyatt Regency Washington on Capital Hill
City: Washington, D.C.
See: http://4women.gov/mwhs/

Aug 29-30
Title: National Conference on Health Communication, Marketing and Media
Location: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Tom Harkin Global Communication Center
City: Atlanta, GA.
Email: nchrnconference@cdc.gov

September

September 5-7
Title: GPHA 78th Annual Meeting and Conference
Location: Savannah Marriott Riverfront
City: Savannah, GA
See: http://www.gapha.org/

September 6 & 7
Grady Health System-Nursing Perspectives XXVII
Location: Emerald Pointe Conference Center and Resort
City: Lake Lanier Islands
Contact: Gail Grimes at Grady Health System, M & I Project, (404) 616-1000

September 17-19
Title: Georgia Rural Health Association's Annual Conference: Making Rural Healthy People 2010 a Reality in Georgia
Location: UGA Conference Center and Hotel
City: Athens, GA.
See: http://www.garuralhealth.org/

This newsletter is being distributed to HMHB Coalition Members. Please submit your questions or comments about this newsletter and or its content to Jessica Hawkins at jessica.hawkins@hmhbga.org. Thank you for assisting HMHB in improving the health status of Georgia's families.

Information is reported as provided and does not necessarily represent the view of or the endorsement by the National Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies Coalition. A complete copy of HMHB's disclaimer is available on the HMHB Web site at http://www.hmhb.org/disclaimer.html .

Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies Coalition of Georgia
*2300 Henderson Mill Rd., Ste 410 * Atlanta, Georgia 30345*
*Phone: 770-451-0020 * Powerline 770-451-5501/800-822-2539 * Fax:770-451-2466*
*www.hmhbga.org * thecoalition@hmhbga.org*