

CT-AIMH Member News



CONNECTICUT ASSOCIATION
FOR INFANT MENTAL HEALTH

Special Points of Interest

- Conference 2008 feedback was excellent, including: "Really liked the emphasis on hierarchy of emotions and symbolic play." You gave many good suggestions for our fall 2009 conference.
- Watch for information about the **Early Relationships Matter** conference, April 30 and May 1, in Westbrook, CT. This will be our annual meeting.
- Check the **Building Blocks** website for a calendar of events related specifically to infant/early childhood mental health at: buildingblockssect.org



- Visit the **CT-AIMH** website at ct-aimh.org for the most up-to-date organizational info.

Membership News for 2009

Now is the time to renew your membership for 2009. Forms are available on our website and also attached.

In 2009, membership will begin in January rather than March. Our new rates include an agency rate for four employees or more.

Membership includes access to this newsletter, special conference rates, e-mail notices and a copy of our publication, "**Secure Beginnings.**"

You may also join any of our committees that include:

- Public Awareness and Education
- Professional and Research Promotion
- Organizational Development
- Policy and Strategic Planning.

Nominations for Annual Jane C. Bourns Award

The Board of Directors for CT-AIMH is seeking nominations for the Jane C. Bourns Award to be presented at our annual meeting on April 30, 2009.

Jane was a visionary and tireless advocate for children. She devoted most of her career to the development of mental health services for children as Director of Children Services at Wheeler Clinic for 23 years.

Please send your one-page nomination briefly describing her/his statewide work, publications, collaborations, and/or advocacy efforts on behalf of young children and families by March 13, 2009 to: jbogin@ccmckids.org.

Connecticut Association for Infant Mental Health

Margaret C. Holmberg, President
margaret.holmberg@ct.metrocast.net

For membership information:

Kareena Duplessis, Secretary
Child Development Infoline
United Way of CT
1344 Silas Deane Highway
Rocky Hill, CT 06067

Phone: (860) 571-7530
kareena.duplessis@ctunitedway.org

CT-AIMH Mission:

The Connecticut Association for Infant Mental Health provides statewide opportunities to enhance knowledge and to promote a positive influence on the social-emotional health and development of infants, young children and their families.

The National Scientific Council on the Developing Child, chaired by Jack P. Shonkoff, has issued Working Paper #6: "Mental Health Problems in Early Childhood Can Impair Learning and Behavior for Life."
<http://www.developingchild.net/pubs/wp-abstracts/wp6.html>

Read this paper for reasons why we have much work to do in Connecticut to help everyone understand the importance of quality responsive relationships for our youngest children. Excerpts include:

"The foundations of many mental health problems that endure through adulthood are established early in life."

"Persistent poverty, threatening neighborhoods, and very poor child care conditions elevate the risk of serious mental health problems."

Update on Connecticut Competencies for Infant/Early Childhood Mental Health

Stakeholders and Competency Team will meet January 26 & 27 with Deborah Weatherston and Cheryl Goldberg from Michigan-AIMH. Our stakeholders will hear the history of the development of the competencies and outcomes in other states.

The team will be planning how to use the competencies in CT and plan the next steps for an endorsement/ credential.

If you would like to be involved in this process, please e-mail:
margaret.Holmberg@ct.metrocast.net

"If young children are not provided appropriate help, emotional difficulties that emerge early in life can become more serious disorders over time."

"The emotional well-being of young children is directly tied to the emotional functioning of their caregivers and the families in which they live."

"Sometimes the best intervention strategy for young children with serious behavioral or emotional problems is to focus directly on the primary needs of those who care for them."

"Broader attention to early childhood mental health requires attention to the quality of out-of-home care that children typically experience in the early years."

