

MCH Leadership

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This 1939 poster celebrated the efforts of the Children's Bureau, which is the federal agency responsible for the health and welfare of America's children. Source: SSA History Archives.

Henry Bergh, Founder
Am Soc for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (1866)
Am Soc for Prevention of Cruelty to Children (1875)



If crops, why not children?

Lillian Wald (1903)



THE CHILDREN'S BUREAU

Department of Commerce and Labor

CHILDREN'S BUREAU

Washington

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE BUREAU.

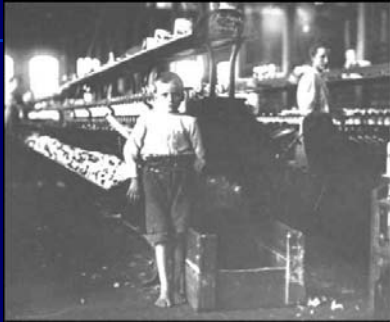
The Children's Bureau was established by an act of Congress approved April 9, 1912, and began active operations upon the passage of the legislative, executive, and judicial appropriation bill on August 23, 1912. The text of the law establishing the Bureau is as follows:

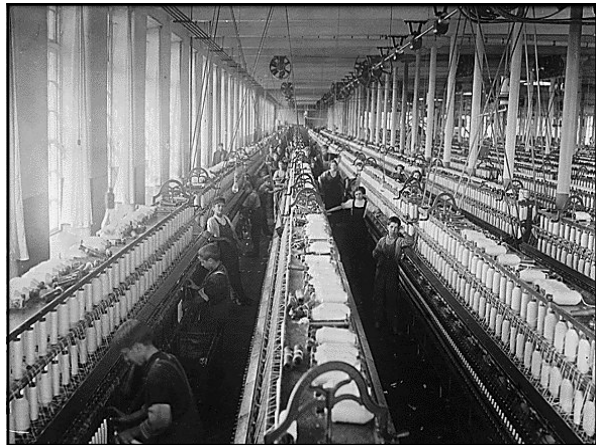
Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That there shall be established in the Department of Commerce and Labor a bureau to be known as the Children's Bureau.

Children's Bureau: Mission Statement

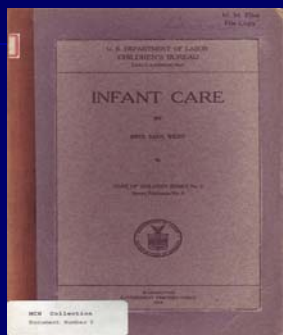
"Investigate and report upon all matters pertaining to the welfare of children and child life among all classes of our people and shall especially investigate the questions of infant mortality, the birth rate, orphanage, juvenile courts, desertion, dangerous occupations, accidents and diseases of children, employment, legislation affecting children in the several states and Territories."

Dangerous Occupations: Child Labor

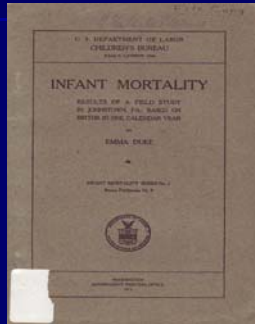


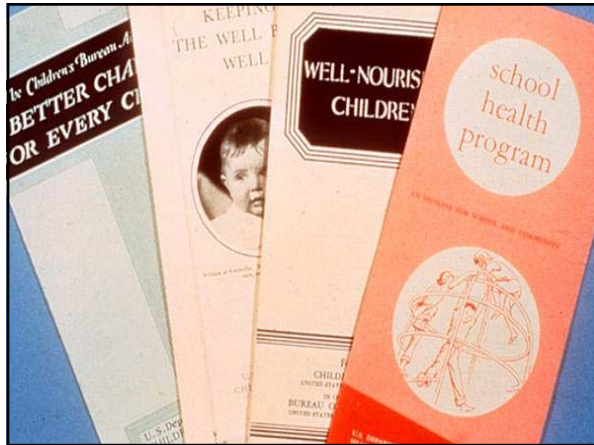


Infant Care (1914)



Johnstown, PA: Infant Mortality Study





Birth Certificates

The image shows a filled-out birth certificate from the South Carolina State Board of Health. The certificate is dated August 27, 1914. The child's name is "Earlbert" and the sex is "M". The mother's name is "Martha Jane" and the father's name is "James". The certificate includes fields for the child's sex, date of birth, place of birth, and the names of the attending physician or midwife. The certificate is signed by "James A. Williams" and "Earlbert M.C.".

Federal Maternal and Child Health Legislation
Past ...

- Role of the Children's Bureau evolved to include direct assistance to States to help them improve conditions for infants and women during childbearing.
- These grants-in-aid were authorized by Congress in 1921 as part of the Maternity and Infancy Act (also known as the Sheppard-Towner Act).



The 19th Amendment to the Constitution, granting women the right to vote, is signed into law, August 26th, 1920

Sheppard-Towner Act

- Enacted, 1921
- Allowed to expire, 1928
- Why?



A Blueprint for Title V

- Although the Sheppard-Towner Act expired in 1929, its existence established the expectation and acceptance that the people of the United States, through their Federal and State governments, share a responsibility for the health and welfare of children.
- This belief provided a blueprint for Title V of the Social Security Act of 1935 (Public Law 74-271) to support mothers and children left destitute during the Great Depression.

What is MCH today?
What is MCH leadership?

"MCH does not
raise children, it
raises adults" (Stitt)



PAULINE GEORGE STITT
1909 - 1996

What is MCH?

"the professional and academic field that focuses on the determinants, mechanisms and systems that promote and maintain the health, safety, well being and appropriate development of children and their families in communities and societies in order to enhance the future health and welfare of society and subsequent generations."

(Alexander, 2004)

Needs Exceed Capacity

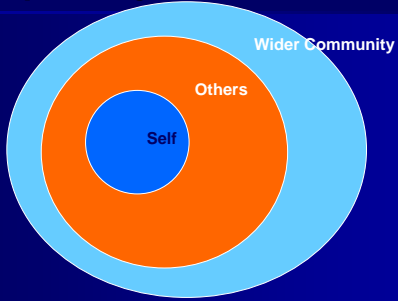
- MCH must keep track of what services are needed - *to assess*
- Arrange for children and families to get access to those services - *to assure* - and
- Work to create new services when they are unavailable - *to advocate and develop policies*
- To achieve this requires **leadership** and a vision of the future

What is MCH Leadership?

"An MCH leader inspires and bring people together to achieve sustainable results to improve the lives of the MCH population"
(MCH adapted from George, 2006)

"Leaders mobilize people to tackle tough problems" (Heifetz, 1994)

MCH Leadership Competency Domains



Self

- MCH knowledge
www.mchb.hrsa.gov/timeline
- Self-reflection
- Ethics and professionalism
- Critical thinking

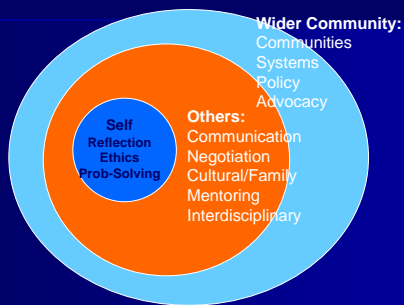
Others

- Communication
- Negotiation and conflict resolution
- Cultural competency
- Family-centered care ("centeredness")
- Mentoring and teaching others
- Interdisciplinary team building

Wider Community

- Working with communities and systems
- Policy and advocacy

MCH Leadership Competency Domains



MCHB Mission Statement

"provide national leadership and to work in partnership with States, communities, public-private partners, and families to strengthen the maternal and child health (MCH) infrastructure, ensure the availability and use of medical homes, and build knowledge and human resources to ensure continued improvement in the health, safety, and well-being of the MCH population" (<http://mchb.hrsa.gov>)

MCH Field Leadership

- Academia
- Clinical Settings
- Public Health Policy
- MCH Advocacy