

MCIC News & Updates

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

July 2008

Mississippi Chronic Illness Coalition Newsletter

Vol. 5, No. 3

MCIC Awards Presented at Health Summit

The MCIC recognition luncheon held May 22 during the Third Annual Empowering Communities for a Healthy Mississippi Summit featured awards to those who have made outstanding contributions to the health of the state's population. Recognized for their efforts and dedication were Dr. Aaron Shirley, Dr. John Bower, and the state's former Attorney General Mike Moore. The event is anticipated to be a part of the Healthy Mississippi Summit each year.



Dr. Aaron Shirley

Longtime health activist Dr. Aaron Shirley receives his recognition award from Margrett Davis, MCIC vice-chair.



Champions of a Healthy Mississippi

WLBT 'Medical Matters' reporter Stephanie Bell Flynt, who served as mistress of ceremonies for the luncheon at the Jackson Hilton, is shown with MCIC health care champions, from left, Mike Moore, Dr. John Bower and Dr. Aaron Shirley.



Dr. John Bower

Mary Helen Conner, MCIC chair, recognizes the contributions of Dr. John Bower.

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Working on "Know Your Numbers"



Ann Sansing, second from left, chair of the "Know Your Numbers" youth presentation efforts now underway, is shown with newly elected MCIC officers, from left, Sharon Cupil, secretary; Ann, who is also public relations/member-ship co-chair; Sandra Shelson, treasurer; Mary Helen Conner, chair; Margrett Davis, vice-chair. The need for a youth KYN version has been recognized. The adult version has been well received for the past five years. A "Train the Trainer" program, planned for the Sept. 3 MCIC meeting, will allow the Coalition to have speakers ready to present vital chronic illness prevention messages across the state. Information focuses on four key indicators for health risks, including cholesterol, blood pressure, blood glucose, and body mass index.



Mike Moore

Former Attorney General Mike Moore, who is known throughout the world for his stand against tobacco, receives his plaque of recognition.

MCIC Minutes--Draft

June 4, 2008

Mary Helen Conner, MCIC chair, opened the meeting at 11:10 a.m. MSDH Osborne Building Auditorium. Introductions from members present included names and organizations, reflecting the many different areas, companies and associations represented at the meeting. In the absence of a secretary for the group, Sonja Tolbert and Carole Kelly volunteered to serve as cooperative minute/note takers in order to have an official record of the MCIC meeting.

Mary Helen mentioned the MCIC portion of the Department of Health's Patient Safety Summit that was highlighted by the awards for the contributions to the health of the state's population by Dr. Aaron Shirley, Dr. John Bower, and former Attorney General Mike Moore. She said that the MCIC luncheon may be an annual event.

The fact that MCIC now has a fiscal sponsor through the Mississippi Rural Health Association was noted, allowing MCIC to apply for grants, have a checking account and move forward with its mission. Mary Helen as chair will serve as liaison on the MRHA board of directors.

She called on long-time member Brenda Dyson of the ESRD Network 8 to update members about the National Kidney Disease Education Program. Brenda, who has had two transplants, noted the targeting of problems involve focusing on diabetes and hypertension leading to stroke and heart disease. Informing the public about the ESRD work, sharing fact sheets and educating people on the subject can be lifesavers. Last fall's presentation by Ann Pidgen focused on the ESRD work, including the Fistula First focus, noting how patients receive dialysis in the safest way. Network 8 has been a supportive member of MCIC since the organization began and served as the host for lunch for the June meeting. The support of the Mississippi Kidney Foundation was mentioned. Free screenings at different sites, presenters at meetings, symptoms, Web site information and sharing at various functions such as family reunions were mentioned.

Trannie Murphy of IQH reviewed pertinent resolutions passed by the Mississippi State Medical Association delegates at the recent MSMA annual meeting in Biloxi. These involved the preventive medicine residency training program, the proposed tobacco tax to help fund Medicaid, improvement in health disparities in the estate, and smoke-free facilities for MSMA meetings.

Trannie noted that she had presented IQH aspirations for the Ninth Scope of Work with CMS at the last meeting in the spring, saying that it was thought that IQH would have heard about receiving the competed contract by the time of this June meeting. However, this is not the case, which made it difficult to further plans for the proposed coalition in line with the contract. She listed potential partners, include the Kidney Foundation, ESRD, MAFP, MSMA, UMMC and AARP, to name a few, and noted the outstanding letters of support that organizations have submitted. She pointed out that MCIC provides the perfect setting for this effort. IQH's new chief medical officer, Dr. Jennifer Gholson, was introduced. Formerly the IQH review medical director, Dr. Gholson has been a member and program presenter for MCIC.

Mary Helen urged that evaluations be filled out for the meeting in order to get feedback and continue improving MCIC efforts. MCIC membership has contributed to writing asthma, cancer, and cardiovascular state plans; designed and coordinated the "Know Your Numbers" campaign; numerous Capitol Days; Train the Trainer sessions. Moving the preventive promotion of the Know Your Numbers campaign into the arena for children is the next step for MCIC, with Ann Sansing, public relations co-chair, heading the effort.

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Elections

Margrett Davis asked that Mary Helen at this pivotal point in MCIC efforts accept the nomination of MCIC chair. Sandra Shelson moved that nominations be closed, Margrett seconded, and Mary Helen was elected unanimously. Other nominations: Margrett as vice-chair; Sandra Shelson as treasurer; and Sharon Cupil as secretary. None was opposed, and all were elected.

Other discussion included:

- Naming the committees, including advocacy, evaluation/surveillance; membership/public relations; professional education; community-based prevention
- Ability to write for a grant to publish the KYN brochure for distribution
- ASAP printers on Lakeland has brochures on hand, with members allowed to claim up to 500 brochures to distribute
- Dr. Garen Evans of MSU can evaluate/process pre and post-tests for KYN
- Training sessions of two to four hours can be scheduled; three persons had been through the training sessions
- Possibility of having a training session at the September meeting
- Need for the development of a Spanish brochure, with it pointed out that translating properly can be a challenge, depending on locations of the various Spanish speakers and colloquial usage

Committee reports were presented by Carole Kelly, PR/Membership; Lisa Camel, Community-based Prevention; Sebrenia Robinson, Professional Education; Amy-Radican-Wald, Evaluation.

Ann shared a draft of the proposed slide presentation for young people. Members commented and made suggestions for the presentation.

The meeting continued through 2 p.m. before adjourning. (Minutes presented for approval, 7-17-08)

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Comments from the Chair

I would like to express the sincere appreciation of all members of the Mississippi Chronic Illness Coalition (MCIC) to the Mississippi State Department of Health, Department of Preventive Health for sponsoring the 2008 MCIC Recognition Luncheon. This occasion promoted and acknowledged MCIC for its accomplishments and activities during the past 13 years and allowed our organization to showcase three dedicated men who have worked to create a culture of wellness in Mississippi. We look forward to identifying and recognizing health care leaders in Mississippi in the future as we work together to create a "Healthier Mississippi."

Mary Helen Conner, BSN, MPH, CHES
MCIC Chair

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Save the Date

Next MCIC Meeting to be held:
September 3, 2008
10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Osbourne Auditorium Health Department



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

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