

PROGRAM HISTORY AND STRATEGY

The vital role of social workers—and the need to provide special training for them in public health concepts and philosophy—has been recognized since the initiation of the Title V program, when continuing education training was provided. Training for social workers was also integrated into the interdisciplinary training programs, which were funded from their inception by the maternal and child health (MCH) program.

Social work training, as a separate priority, was first developed in the mid-1950s when the critical need for social work faculty trained in public health was recognized. At that time, a doctoral program was established—the only one in the nation that helped students who had a master's of social work (M.S.W.) degree to obtain a master's of public health (M.P.H.) degree along with a Ph.D. in social work. This program, located within a school of public health, is still viewed as key to producing faculty with public health and MCH perspectives for schools of social work.

Grants to schools of social work—which have ranged in number from as many as 20 in the 1970s to only 3 in FY 1999—have been awarded on a competitive basis to encourage the training of social workers in MCH concepts at the master's level and also to support continuing education for social workers at the regional level. The continuing education and consultation aspects of these grants are viewed as equally important for long-term training. The regional conferences focus on new and emerging issues that have been identified by national leaders. Examples of topics from these conferences over the years include family planning, perinatology, prevention, mental health, parenting, adolescent health,

violence as a public health issue, and evaluation. The workshops provide an important opportunity for field workers, administrators, and teachers to gain new knowledge and stay current with the national MCH agenda.

In short, the social work training program aims to establish centers of excellence that promote public health training for social workers who can then

become leaders in their field. These centers also serve as regional resources in continuing education.



PROGRAM CHARACTERISTICS

The social work training program has: (1) graduate-level social work programs that integrate MCH content into their health concentrations, and (2) one program that provides postgraduate training to persons who have already received an M.S.W., leading to an M.P.H. degree and a doctorate in social work. These social work programs offer students a wide range of interdisciplinary field experiences in various MCH settings. Because there are so few training grants relative to the need for trained social workers in this area, the programs are all required to disseminate curriculum materials, teaching models, and other educational resources to social work education programs around the nation. In this way, the training program's work has more influence.

HIGHLIGHTS

Trainees. The social work training program has successfully recruited many qualified minority can-

didates for long-term training. Graduates have become faculty in schools of social work, pursued careers in policy and research, or become local leaders in direct service.

Faculty. Project directors have an M.S.W. degree as well as a doctorate. They are demonstrated leaders with expertise in public health social work practice, program development, and administration. Other MCH faculty actively participate in the program in a variety of ways. Faculty engage in applied and clinical research and must provide technical assistance and consultation to Title V agencies in addition to their teaching and advising functions.

Curriculum. The curriculum includes the following areas, as applied to mothers, children, and families: epidemiology; social factors relating to health; community needs assessment; program planning and evaluation; program management and accountability; policy change strategies; and effects of ethnicity, culture, and gender on access to health services. The curriculum also includes field training.

PROGRAM PROFILE

- In FY 1999, MCHB funded three social work projects, with total annual awards amounting to \$400,000.
- The grant awards range from \$117,000 to \$160,000 per year, with a mean award amount of \$133,000.

Present Grant Recipients

STATE	GRANTEE
MD	University of Maryland, Baltimore
NC	University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
PA	University of Pittsburgh

BIBLIOGRAPHY

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration, Maternal and Child Health Bureau. 1997. *Maternal and Child Health Center for Leadership in Public Health Social Work Education: Application Guidance*. Rockville, MD: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration, Maternal and Child Health Bureau.

