



# Regional Newsletter

October 2017

## NOHS 2017 National Conference: Regional Meeting & Highlights

The national conference was held this year in Des Moines, Iowa from October 18<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup>. The theme was “Community Connections: Bridging the Gaps between Academia, Community and the Human Service Profession.” Many of the states within our region had attendees present, which led to good MWOHS representation in the sessions and social gatherings.



Our regional gathering at the conference was well-attended and engaging. Discussion centered on doing more at the regional level – more opportunities to communicate and socialize with each other, ways to improve our regional conferences and trainings, and how to get more involved in MWOHS. Board members emphasized that they want to hear from members and want more people to get involved. General data about the MWOHS member survey was shared, and more details regarding the survey will be included in our next newsletter. Current NOHS president,

Tammi Dice, also stopped by the meeting to discuss current topics of interest in the organization and to highlight the positive changes happening throughout NOHS. One interesting factoid she shared: there are approximately **800** human services educational programs existing at this moment. The hope is to have more and more of those programs involved in NOHS and MWOHS efforts. If you know of any programs or human services professionals that aren't currently involved, encourage them to check us out and connect with us. This can help us address the current and



evolving needs of human service professionals.

## Participate in The Next Café Klatch

We will be having another web-based conversation opportunity – all members are welcome. Our goal is to create ongoing opportunities for members to share thoughts and ideas about human services with others. You're welcome to discuss anything related to the field and view it as a forum to highlight any social justice issues that come to mind.

Date & Time: December 14<sup>th</sup> from 6:00-7:00pm CST

<https://socw-csbs.adobeconnect.com/bshs>

866.391.9390 – code: 42.44.74.12

## What's Happening in Our Region

**Illinois:** Numbers have increased due to eligibility expansion for the program, “All Kids” which provides services to pregnant women, infants born to Medical-eligible pregnant women, and certain children 19 and under. The expansion includes the Moms and Babies program and an Assist program.

**Indiana:** A five-county pilot of “On My Way Pre-K” has recently expanded to include 15 counties. Parents are able to receive grants to send their child to the program after filling out an application, which is located at: [www.OnMyWayPreK.org](http://www.OnMyWayPreK.org).

**Iowa:** The Willis Dady Homeless Shelter and Iowa BIG program, a program for high schoolers that focuses on hands-on community projects, are working together to collect information on the local homeless population. They hope to collect personal stories regarding childhood events and data that allows them to compare costs associated with a night at the shelter to costs of a night in jail. The larger goals are to advocate for more funding and better meet the needs of the community.

**Kansas:** An ongoing initiative in Garden City continues to explore and celebrate diversity in the community at the 2017 Diversity Breakfast and Multicultural Summit. Recent data indicates that from 2011-2015, 23% of Garden City’s population was or is foreign-born, and includes a wide range of nationalities.

**Michigan:** For the fourth year, the annual college flu challenge is underway until December 8, 2017. The goal of the challenge is to increase awareness and increase the number of adults who get vaccinated to prevent further spread of the flu virus in local communities.

**Minnesota:** About 200 people attended the Quality Parenting Initiative two-day workshop in St. Paul, which focuses on bringing together individuals and groups involved in foster care efforts in the state. Attendees included biological and foster parents, case workers, county leaders, and state officials. Particular concerns noted were return rates of children in the system and how child protective services should focus more on improving parenting.

**Missouri:** With the rise in opioid use in the country each county office will be trained to administer and equipped with Naloxone in the event of an opioid overdose.

**Nebraska:** An agency in the state is one of eight chosen in the nation to test different approaches and strategies aimed at reducing turnover in child welfare caseworkers. The Division of Children and Family Services has noted previous turnover rates at around 32 percent. The state Department of Health and Human Services notes that is going to work with the Quality Improvement Center for Workforce Development organization to address this issue.

**North Dakota:** A large-scale effort to combat and increase awareness of opioid abuse within the state is gaining momentum. Efforts include: providing additional funding to ND tribes, naloxone administration training for new officers, and additional programs and treatment to aid inmates with opioid use disorders.

**Ohio:** In June 2017, the largest Midwest Pride Parade happened in Columbus with over a ½ million participants. For the 2018 Pride Parade, information can be obtained by filling out a short form on <https://columbuspride.org>.

**South Dakota:** The SHIINE (Senior Health Information and Insurance Education) program has been providing volunteer counselors to assist people compare Medicare Part D plan options during the open enrollment period (October 15<sup>th</sup>-December 7<sup>th</sup>). The SHIINE program focuses on educating consumers about Medicare, Medicare fraud, as well as errors and abuse detection, to better enable them to make informed decisions.

**Wisconsin:** Each year the Annie E. Casey Foundation produces “Kids Count,” a report showing trends in human health and prosperity. This year Wisconsin was rated amongst the top 13 states in over-all child well-being and eighth

in economic well-being. Go to the following site for more details: [www.aecf.org/m/resourcedoc/aecf-2017kidscountdatabook.pdf](http://www.aecf.org/m/resourcedoc/aecf-2017kidscountdatabook.pdf)

## **MWOHS Member Spotlight**

For each edition of our newsletter, we want to spotlight a member who is contributing to the field of human services. This month our spotlight is on **Allyson Hamlin, LMSW**. In MWOHS, Allyson is currently serving as a regular contributor and organizer for our newsletters.

Allyson is a doctoral candidate in the Barbara Solomon School of Social Work and Human Services at Walden University. During the first two years of course work, Allyson worked for Hiawatha Behavioral Health. As a member of this agency Allyson's position included adult, children and family therapy with clients who presented with a mental illness. She received her certificate for Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy and holds a Michigan Certified Advanced Alcohol and Drug Counselor certification. Allyson enjoys working in the human services field and hopes to one day become an online higher education professor and to participate in research.

## **Leadership Opportunities: Help Serve Your Region!**

We are seeking more individuals to get involved with MWOHS. If you're interested in taking on a more active role, we want your help! There are some specific opportunities we want to target in this newsletter. If interested in any of the following, make sure to email the listed contact and share your contact information with them by November 20<sup>th</sup>.

We need a treasurer for MWOHS. This is a great opportunity for someone who would like more leadership experience and a different kind of professional service to add to their professional portfolio. Please contact Kristin Faix Wilkinson at [kristin.faixwilkinson@mail.waldenu.edu](mailto:kristin.faixwilkinson@mail.waldenu.edu) if interested.

Since we are a large region, we would like to have direct connections to all 12 of our states. Consider being a representative for your state. Please contact Kristin Faix Wilkinson at [kristin.faixwilkinson@mail.waldenu.edu](mailto:kristin.faixwilkinson@mail.waldenu.edu) if interested.

Would you like to get more experience in organizing and planning regional conferences? Do you already have experience with conference planning, and would you like to use your abilities to help MWOHS? We want to form a regional conference committee; our goal is to find 5 members to lead in these efforts. Please contact Delores Langston at [dlang06@baker.edu](mailto:dlang06@baker.edu) if interested. Committee selection will occur in December and individuals will be notified by December 15<sup>th</sup>; the first planning committee meeting will be on January 12<sup>th</sup>.

## **Newsletter Contributions Wanted**

Do you want to write an article for our upcoming newsletters?

Do you have something interesting you want to share with others in MWOHS?

Is there something happening in your state that you'd like to share with the entire region?

Please contact Emily Fenster at [emily.fenster@vcu.edu](mailto:emily.fenster@vcu.edu) if you would like to contribute or have questions.

## **General Information & MWOHS Board Members**

Website: [www.nationalhumanservices.org/mwohs](http://www.nationalhumanservices.org/mwohs)

Board Members:

President: Kristin Faix Wilkinson, Walden University

Vice President: Delores Langston, Baker College of Flint

Secretary: Emily Fenster, Valley City State University

Newsletter Co-Editors:

Emily Fenster

Allyson Hamlin