



March 2, 2011

Dear NLN Participants,

The time is drawing near for our meeting in Marina del Rey; we will see you a month from tomorrow. At this point we have some requests to ask of you in preparation for the meeting.

### 1) Abstracts

We are excited to hear about all that you have accomplished during the past year. In an effort to organize our "sharing session" and maximize information exchange, we would like to ask each of you, as we did last year, to please write a brief abstract so that your NLN colleagues can get a sneak preview of what you have been up to during the past year.

As we did last year, we will compile these abstracts and post them to the new Western MCH Nutrition Partners website (<http://www.mchnutritionpartners.ucla.edu>, click on "NLN Annual Meetings," and then click on "NLN Meeting 2011") so that you can review them prior to the meeting. We will be sure we post them in an easy-to-download format should you want to bring a copy with you to the meeting. In an effort to be greener, we will not be providing copies at the meeting.

If you have more than one project that you would like to share, you may submit additional abstracts. However, because our sharing time is limited and we want everyone to have a chance to speak, please select just one project that you would like to focus on for the purposes of our discussion. The focus of this year's meeting is the life course. If any of the projects you are working on involve this topic and you would like to share them that would be an added bonus. If there is more than one person/project from your state, please prioritize among yourselves about which to present in case time is short.

Once the abstracts are posted we would like to ask you to look them over and think about the types of questions you would like to ask of your fellow NLN members. The deadline for abstract submission is **Thursday, March 17th**. Please submit your abstracts to Susie Silah at: [uclapartners@ph.ucla.edu](mailto:uclapartners@ph.ucla.edu) in Microsoft Word format (.doc), 1" margins, and 12 pt Times New Roman font. The abstracts from last year can also be viewed at: <http://www.mchnutritionpartners.ucla.edu/events/nln-sharing-session-abstracts-march-2010>

Please include the following in your abstract:

- 300 words or fewer
- Title
- People involved in project and organization they belong to

The parts of the abstract should include:

- Background/Introduction
- Project Goals
- Methods
- Results
- Summary/Discussion

## **2) Preparation for the Leadership Session “Strengths-Based Leadership”**

In addition, for the leadership session that will be facilitated by Kris Risley, we would like to ask you to purchase and read the following text: Strengths Based Leadership by Tom Rath and Barry Conchie. When you complete the text, there is an assessment that you should complete online using the code that is provided with the book. This code can only be used one time so it will be necessary for everyone to purchase a copy of their own.

## **3) Preparation for the session on the Lifecourse Perspective: Theory and Application**

Finally, attached to this email and posted to our website, we have provided you with an article by Milton Kotelchuck and Amy Fine, entitled: "Rethinking MCH: The Life Course Model as an Organizing Framework." We would like to use this reading as a foundation for the day 2 presentations and are asking each of you to please think of one or two learning points and/or questions that you would like to pose to our panelists about the life course perspective. You will have a chance at the very beginning of the meeting to share these with the participants at your table and a forum to choose which issues are of most interest to the group to report out.

We will be sending additional information regarding the meeting site, ground transportation, as well as other details along with the final agenda in the coming weeks.

You will also find all pertinent meeting information posted at our website: <http://www.mchnutritionpartners.ucla.edu>, click on "NLN Annual Meetings," and then click on "NLN Meeting 2011"

Please let us know if you have any further questions. We look forward to seeing you at the end of the month.

Sincerely,



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