

**Western MCH Nutrition Leadership Network  
University of California, Los Angeles  
Public Health Nutrition Leadership Training  
MCHB #T79MC00013**

January 28, 2013

Dear Network Member,

The UCLA MCH Nutrition Leadership Training program (“UCLA Partners”) is pleased to invite you to the annual Western MCH Nutrition Leadership Network (NLN) meeting to be held March 21 and 22, 2013, in Los Angeles, CA. We will again be meeting at the Marina del Rey Hotel, the site of our meeting for the last few years. For those of you who will be new to the group, this is a delightful small hotel located right on the Marina. Good news since our last communication: the anticipated construction will not begin until May, well after our meeting.

Thank you for your input with regard to the focus of this year’s meeting. It will be, finally, a blend of the two topics we presented as most were interested in both present and future workforce issues that we are facing as employers/trainers due to the implementation of the Affordable Care Act (ACA). After an introduction to the major pieces of the ACA, we will explore the implications for nutrition professionals of the growing importance of interconception care in the public health framework and present some of the latest findings relating to nutrition care for the vulnerable MCH population at this critical time. Although as yet unidentified, we plan to invite a speaker with high-level knowledge of the implications of the expected changes to public health services due to the ACA, so that we can be prepared, as public health nutrition professionals, to be at the table in our states as the implementation unfolds.

For the second part of the morning/early afternoon, we have invited one of our colleagues, Dr. Bonnie Spear, from the University of Alabama, who is a member of the Council on Future Practice of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (AoND) to share with us the current thinking of the Committee in terms of changes to the education and training of dietitians and nutritionists. You will also have the opportunity to provide the Committee with feedback from your perspective as those who are planning for, or providing, public health nutrition services. Bonnie will compile our thoughts and share them with the Council on Future Practice. Because the Visioning Report is just the beginning of the process, there is still room for change, and your input as public health nutrition professionals is highly valued.

We have identified the following objectives for the day:

1. Become familiar with the changes in health care to be implemented under the ACA and the implications for nutrition services.
2. Understand the public health framework for interconception care, and relate nutrition to this framework.
3. Have a solid understanding of the AoND Council on Future Practice’s Visioning Report for changing educational requirements for nutrition professionals.
4. Provide opinions about the knowledge and skills needed for the public health nutrition workforce of the future.

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5. Identify potential state and network partnerships to help improve life course nutrition outcomes for mothers, children and families.

We also ask you to come with information about the situation in your states with regard to implementation of the ACA, as well as any activities related to the provision of interconception care so that you can respond to discussion questions such as the following. (We will consult you before the meeting to see if you have other issues you would like to put on the agenda for discussion during this morning/early afternoon sessions):

1. How are services for interconception care structured in your state?
2. Where does nutrition tie into this system?
3. What opportunities are there to strengthen other preventive nutrition services as a result of the ACA? What partners need to be at the table?
4. What are the current and future nutrition workforce needs in your state? Do the proposed changes in the education of future dietitians/nutritionists improve your ability to meet those needs? Attached to this letter is a copy of the *Visioning Report: Moving Forward – A Vision for the Continuum of Dietetics Education, Credentialing and Practice* issued in September, 2012. Please come prepared with written responses to the following questions:
  - What are the positive and negative implications of this report?
  - With these proposed changes, what knowledge and skills do you foresee will be needed for the public health workforce in the future?
  - What types of jobs do you anticipate will be available for 4-year degree graduates vs RDs with graduate degrees? In what sectors of the public health nutrition community?

After an hour-long break in mid-afternoon to allow you to wander/ bike around the Marina, we will begin the “networking” portion of our meeting. As usual, this will be your opportunity to share the exciting things going on in your states with the rest of the Network. As you have done in the past, we will be asking you to **send an abstract of the topic/program** you would like to share so that we can better organize our time. A template with instructions/specifications will be sent under separate cover. In addition, we will update you on our website, and ask for your help with how we can best facilitate on-going web-based networking capabilities for the NLN.

Friday, March 22, 2013, will be our Leadership Day. This year, we’ve chosen the subject of “*Quality Improvement*”, with the goal of providing you with tools to help you make your organization foster improvements and support an environment of continuous learning and improvement. A secondary objective is for us to form a Collaborative Innovation Network (CoIN) to support continued group learning amongst our partner states over the course of the year. The facilitator will be Lloyd Provost, PhD, from the University of Texas, Austin, who is cofounder of *Associates in Process Improvement*, the developers of the *Model for Improvement Roadmap* and the *Quality as a Business Strategy* template for focusing organizations on improvement. Dr. Provost is a senior

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fellow at the Institute for Healthcare Improvement, where he supports the use of data for learning/improvement in programs. He has conducted a number of successful workshops for MCH and other professionals on this topic.

In our last communication, we asked you for information that Dr. Provost requested as part of his preparation for our group. Thank you to those who responded so quickly; your thoughtful comments were very much appreciated. At that time we also recommended that you read at least portions of the book he has co-authored: *The Improvement Guide: A Practical Approach to Enhancing Organizational Performance* by Langley, Moen, Nolan, Nolan, Norman and Provost. Chapters 4-8 (pgs 73-193) are the most important to read if you have limited time. Further information from Dr. Provost will be forthcoming.

All of the Partners in the Western Region (Drs. Donna Johnson, Liz Adams, Leslie Cunningham-Sabo, Beth Yakes) join Dr. Dena Herman and myself from UCLA in looking forward to an informative and collaborative time together and value your ongoing participation in the Network. Nutritionists from 11 states (AZ, CA, CO, HI, MT, NM, NV, OR, UT, WA, WY) have indicated that you will be attending this year. As usual, we will also be joined by our graduate-level trainees preparing for a career in MCH nutrition. For those of you who are new to the Network, you can find information related to the UCLA Partners, as well as the upcoming meeting, on our website: <http://mchnutritionpartners.ucla.edu/events/western-mch-nutrition-leadership-network-meeting-2013>.

This invitation is being sent to those who responded that they are planning on attending this year's meeting based on emails sent earlier in the academic year. As usual, the travel expenses will be covered by the training grant. If you still plan to attend on March 21-22, **please return the attached "travel and reimbursement form" immediately (by February 8th)** so that we can reserve space at the hotel. Your contact at UCLA for any questions you have regarding the logistics will be Susan Silah, our Project Manager.

Looking forward to seeing you soon.

Sincerely,

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