

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

January 27, 2014

Dear Network Member,

The UCLA MCH Nutrition Leadership Training program (“UCLA Partners”) and our new collaborators at the UC Berkeley MCH Nutrition Leadership Training Program are pleased to invite you to the annual Western MCH Nutrition Leadership Network (NLN) meeting to be held April 10 and 11, 2014, in Los Angeles, CA. We will again be meeting in Marina del Rey; however, the venue will be the Hilton Garden Inn, a short distance away from the Marina del Rey Hotel where we have met in the past (now undergoing a remodel), but closer to Venice Beach and our up and coming shopping/dining street, Abbott Kinney Blvd.

Thank you all for your input with regard to the focus of this year’s meeting. We have chosen the 4 “top” vote-getters to form our agenda for the two days and, accordingly, identified the following overall goals for the meeting:

Exploration and increased understanding of:

- the importance and potential for instigating behavior change provided by the field of behavioral economics
- the possibilities of, and need for more, distance learning, and the development of skills in using telehealth/telemedicine and webinar technologies
- the potential new demands on the nutrition workforce that follow the anticipated emphasis on prevention as:
  - the Affordable Care Act (ACA) is implemented
  - preconception/interconception care services increase

The morning of the first day will be devoted entirely to Behavioral Economics. We are very lucky to have Kathryn Hoy who manages Cornell University’s Center for Behavioral Economics in Child Nutrition Programs.

After lunch, where we plan to set up tables by area of interest to the group on both days so that the networking can begin early and continue the next day, we will welcome Dr. Bruce Struminger of Project Echo at the University of New Mexico who will introduce us to the possibilities of the use of telehealth/telemedicine to reach our underserved rural areas. This will be followed by an hour of free time so that you can enjoy our sunny weather, wandering/biking/exploring the Marina.

For the remainder of the afternoon we will have 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. We also invite you to e-mail [uclapartners@ph.ucla.edu](mailto:uclapartners@ph.ucla.edu) with any **updates to your abstracts** from last year so that we can share your progress on the website.

Because of the interest in continuing our discussion around the implementation of the Affordable Care Act (ACA), we are beginning the networking session an hour earlier

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than usual so that the group can focus on planning. The MCH Nutrition Grantees, as a national group, have been working on developing a policy brief on the implications for nutrition and nutrition services of the ACA which we will share with you ahead of time as it is nearing completion. As usual, we will ask you to come prepared with knowledge about the status of the roll-out of the ACA in your own states.

Friday, April 11, our usual Leadership Day, will be a little different this year. Since there were many votes for learning how to do a webinar, we have invited Glynis Shea and Kristen Teipel from the Konopka Institute at the University of Minnesota, to present a day-long training session so that we can develop this skill. They were highly recommended by NLN member Tracy Miller of Colorado who experienced one of their workshops. We are hoping, of course, that once we are all comfortable with putting on a webinar, it will finally help us to facilitate on-going web-based networking capabilities for the NLN itself!

All of the Partners in the Western Region (Drs. Donna Johnson, Liz Adams, Leslie Cunningham-Sabo, Beth Yakes-Jimenez) join Dr. Dena Herman and myself from UCLA and Drs. Barbara Laraia and Andrea Garber from UC Berkeley and UC San Francisco, in looking forward to an informative and collaborative time together and value your ongoing participation in the Network.

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, and soon about the upcoming meeting, on our website: <http://www.mchnutritionpartners.ucla.edu/>.

This invitation is being sent to all NLN members except those who have indicated that they are unable to attend 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 (see attached). If you plan to attend on April 10-11, **please return the attached "Travel Information Form" immediately (by February 7th)** so that we can reserve space at the hotel. Your contact at UCLA for any questions you have regarding the logistics will be Gloria Greengard in the Community Health Sciences Departmental office at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health. For questions related to the content, please contact either myself or Miranda Westfall at the number below.

Looking forward to seeing you soon!

Sincerely,



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