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Advocating for Kids

AHA Postpartum Write-Up

Sherry serves on the public relations committee of the American Heart Association, Idaho, and wrote this recent Op-Ed piece.

Volunteer Voices

Sherry Iverson, Western States

Providing Idaho Families a Healthier Beginning

Between 2019 and 2021, maternal mortality in Idaho increased by more than 121% and nearly all of these deaths were preventable. However, postpartum Medicaid coverage is only 60 days and 56% of Idaho's pregnancy-related deaths happened between 43 and 365 days after birth. During the 2024 Idaho legislative session, the Idaho Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) worked alongside the American Heart Association to help change these grim statistics.

We all want babies to have the best possible start in life. Ensuring the expectant parent has access to care during pregnancy and for the first year after giving birth is essential for providing a healthy start, and ensuring babies and families thrive. Fortunately, the Idaho Legislature agreed and passed (and Governor Brad Little signed) House Bill (HB) 633, allowing new mothers to maintain health care coverage through Medicaid for 12 months. A year of coverage guarantees that any health conditions triggered by pregnancy are monitored and interventions are available. The legislation directs the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare to apply for a state plan amendment and provides funding through a trailer bill (HB 750) for full implementation.

We also supported HB 399, which brings back the Maternal Mortality Review Committee that ended in July 2023. The return of this committee gives us the data analysis needed to better understand the causes behind maternal mortality, in order to prevent deaths and improve outcomes for moms and their families.

The mission of the Idaho AAP is to promote the health and welfare of Idaho's children by influencing policy on any and every issue affecting child health. Together with the American Heart Association, we're giving Idaho's children and families the chance for a healthier future.

Upcoming Educational Opportunities/Meetings/Events

Early Years Conference 2024

We are excited to announce that registration for the Early Years Conference 2024 is now open!

Join us for an inspiring event featuring keynote speakers Dr. Kristie Pretti-Frontczak, Maya Payne Smart, and Dr. Richard Solomon. The conference will feature 25 workshops focused on various aspects of early care and education. You'll also have the chance to explore vendors and information booths onsite and participate in professional networking with the early childhood community. Attendees can earn IDHW CEU credits, IdahoSTARS training credits, and BSU teaching credits.

Registration includes a bag, notebook and pen, collapsible water bottle, and breakfast and lunch for both days.

Conference dates: November 14-15, 2024 Location: The Riverside Hotel in Boise, Idaho

Please visit our website to register:

<https://healthandwelfare.idaho.gov/services-programs/about-early-years-conference-2024>

2024 Developmental Behavioral Pediatrics Virtual Course



Earn a Maximum of 35.25 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™

Register by October 24, 2024 for Early Bird Rates
Save \$150!

The 2024 Developmental-Behavioral Pediatrics Virtual Course: An Intensive Clinical Update for Primary and Subspecialty Care, taking place virtually on November 7-9, is designed to meet your needs. The course has been designed with content and specific presentations to meet the educational needs of primary care and subspecialist pediatricians and focuses on current information that can be employed immediately in their daily practices.

If you are a primary care pediatrician experiencing an increase in patients presenting to your practice with various Developmental-Behavioral concerns or a Developmental-Behavioral subspecialist interested in staying current in the field or preparing for recertification, this course is for you!

Like all AAP CME courses, this virtual course offers top-quality educational content in a virtual setting. The virtual format incorporates both pre-course on-demand presentations and real-time participation and interaction with expert faculty through general sessions, breakout sessions and question-and-answer sessions. Together, they provide ***the best pediatric CME/CPD for the best pediatric care.***

[REGISTER](#)

Upcoming Educational Opportunities/Meetings/Events (cont.)

National Research Conference for the Prevention of Firearm-Related Harms

For those of you who are interested in the research aspect of firearm injury prevention here is an excellent conference that will be in Seattle this year in December.

[Summary - 2024 National Research Conference for the Prevention of Firearm-Related Harms \(cvent.com\)](#)

IOHA: Medical Clinics Needed for Fluoride Varnish Training Program Pilot

The IOHA has created an in-person training program to assist medical practices in adopting basic oral health services including assessments and application of fluoride varnish. The training, based on best practices and research by the American Academy of Pediatrics, can be delivered in less than an hour and includes printed and on-line resources, tips for seeking reimbursement and dental referrals, and ongoing support for the six-month pilot phase. If you know a medical clinic in Idaho that would like to participate in this pilot or wants to know more about early childhood caries prevention, connect them with Jennifer Wheeler, IOHA Executive Director, jwheeler@idahooralhealth.org

Spotlight on a Member

Idaho AAP Resident Representative

Gracie Strubel is the new Resident Representative on the Idaho AAP Executive Committee. We welcome Gracie to this position.



Dr. Gracie Strubel grew up in Idaho Falls, where her parents still live. She attended Regis University in Colorado where she obtained a degree in neuroscience and developed her passion for social justice and gained a deep appreciation of service to others. Gracie then attended medical school at PNWU in Yakima, WA. She is now a pediatric intern at the Pediatrics Residency of Idaho with Full Circle Health. Dr. Strubel hopes to continue to develop her advocacy skills for her patients and her community.

Resources

AAP Center of Excellence on Social Media and Youth Mental Health Newsletter

Here is the link to a new newsletter providing great information on these topics.

[2024 August Newsletter \(contentsharing.net\)](#)

We have added this information to our website. We have many resources on the Idaho AAP website and encourage you to check it out.

Book Corner

Updated AAP Policy on Reading

The policy statement, "Literacy Promotion: An Essential Component of Primary Care Pediatric Practice," marks the first update in AAP recommendations since 2014. Given the extraordinary amount of research in this area, an accompanying new technical report reviews the evidence for shared reading to strengthen and nurture relationships, stimulate brain circuitry and create early attachments.

"Reading together with young children weaves joyful language and rich interactive moments into the fabric of daily life," said Perri Klass, MD, FAAP, lead author of both statements. "As a pediatrician and parent, I suggest making books your bedtime routine, using them to connect and wind down after a busy day, and generally building them into life with a young child. It will strengthen the bonds that hold you together and build your child's developing brain."

AAP Book: *Digging into Nature: Outdoor Adventures for Happier and Healthier Kids* by Pooja Sarin Tandon MD MPH FAAP and Danette Swanson Glassy MD FAAP