

Relaunched Tool Helps Navigate Way

It can be tricky to navigate a career field that is as vast, profound, and populated as the deep blue sea. When it comes to field of Maternal and Child Health (MCH), the newly relaunched MCH Navigator provides emerging and mid-level professionals with a continuous learning compass to help navigate towards professional development, and ultimately, towards improving the health and well-being of women, children, and families in their communities.

What's New

Trainings

During the first eight months of the 3-year cooperative agreement the Navigator team at Georgetown University (GU) worked to, 'find their sea legs' and standardize existing MCH Navigator trainings. The team inventoried material and retired old trainings; identified gaps in training and created project to fill those gaps; and bundled and condensed trainings.

"[MCH professionals] don't have time to go through tons of material looking for useful information," said John Richards, Georgetown University Research Directory. "That's what we are doing for them."

Data-base-driven Website

The newly launched data-base-driven website makes it easier for users to navigate the trainings and for the Navigator team to update content.

Richards said the MCH Navigator is not meant to be an exhaustive repository of MCH information, but rather a focused set of competency-based trainings that a Title V professional can access to further their knowledge of the field.

What's the Same

Users are still able to access learning opportunities through training bundles and spotlights such as MCH 101, Communication, Leadership and more; or by tailored learning through a downloadable self-assessment.

"We felt it was important for users to be able to access trainings in the same way, as well as access materials through new mechanisms such as our A-Z list, search page, and training briefs," Richards said.

Additional Training Spotlights

Some "Training Spotlights" are already available, but the Navigator team is working to grow this learning feature by adding additional topics for spotlights. It's a good vehicle for professionals who have very little time to explore and who learn better by viewing presentations, videos, and tutorials.

"One of the greatest strengths of the MCH Navigator is that it has a buy-in for everyone, at every level," Richards said. "We look forward to working with CityMatCH to develop local training spotlights."

An Online Self-assessment

By filling out a downloadable self-assessment users have always been able assess their strengths and needs; and map-out a learning pathway. The Navigator team is working on an online form that will populate a customized learning plan upon one's completion of the form.

"The original assessment only addressed skills, but the online assessment will address skills and knowledge," Richards said. "We are hoping to have this available by the end of summer."

MCH Navigator History

The Maternal and Child Health Bureau (MCHB) launched the MCH Navigator in 2010 as a game-changing online tool to address the professional development needs of the field. In July 2013, GU welcomed the MCH Navigator to a family of MCHB-funded projects that span the past 32 years.

“The MCH Navigator is the go-to resource for professionals in the field - whether they are at a community, state, or national level - for strengthening their knowledge of MCH,” said John Richards, Georgetown University Research Director. “We’re looking forward to working with CityMatCH to address the needs of city and county Title V staff.”

The Navigator Team at Georgetown University

The relaunch called on the Navigator team at GU to streamline the functionality and content of the MCH Navigator.

“Our team is focused and devoted to meeting the needs of a constantly evolving field.”

John Richards, MA, AITP
Project Lead

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Content Expert

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Training Director

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Training Coordinator

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Additional Features

MCH Alert – Weekly training, research, and news

Navigator e-News Update – Quarterly newsletter containing new features, spotlights, and learning opportunities

Social Media - Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn

Webinar Calendar- Announcement of new MCH webinars

A-Z - An alphabetical, searchable index of all trainings

Question: How do I use the MCH Navigator?

Answer: Here are three ways to get started...

1 Know what you want to learn about?

Self-Directed

Quick-Finds

Find specific courses by using:

- Search Page (find by competency or keyword)
- A-Z Training List (all trainings and topics arranged alphabetically)

2 Looking for more structured learning?

Semi-Structured

Training Bundles

- MCH 101
- MCH Orientations
- Conceptual Models
- MCH Planning Cycle
- Communication
- Epidemiology
- Leadership
- Management

3 Not sure what your training need are?

Self-Assessment

Tailored Learning

- Use this tool to gauge your knowledge & skills across the MCH Leadership Competencies
- Develop a customized learning plan and receive strategies for lifelong learning

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