

# The New Mexico Association for Infant Mental Health

*Promoting and supporting healthy development and nurturing relationships for all  
infants and young children in New Mexico*

## Annual Report January 2008- December 2008

### 2008 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Carmela Alcon, Assistant Secretary

Maria Brock, Assistant Treasurer

Jane Clarke

Joe DeBonis

Mary Ann Demaree

Harrie Freedman, Treasurer

Tara Ford

Jonah Garcia

Deborah Harris, Vice President

Holly Harrison

Judson Kusy

Marcia Moriarta, President

Debbie Sanchez

Doreen Sansom

Jacqui Van Horn, Secretary



Photo by Don J. Usner

### STANDING COMMITTEES

Executive Committee, Marcia Moriarta, Chair

Membership Committee, Joe DeBonis & Holly Harrison, Co-chairs

Nominating Committee, Deborah Harris, Chair

Endorsement Committee, Jacqui Van Horn, Chair

**MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE NMAIMH**

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

In my first year as president of the New Mexico Association for Infant Mental Health (NMAIMH), it is with the utmost sincerity that I offer this Annual Report in the spirit of gratitude to the Board of Directors for their true commitment to the concept of a “working board”. The collective wisdom, incredible work ethic, and tireless initiative of the NMAIMH Board of Directors have been continually awe-inspiring and motivating to me. Without the uncountable volunteer hours the Board and our members have contributed to our efforts this past year, the NMAIMH could not have accomplished the feats outlined in this year’s Annual Report. I thank each and every one of you for your commitment to infants, toddlers and their families, and to our Association as we grow and go through our own developmental processes as an organization moving from infancy to the complexities of toddlerhood and beyond. To my mind, the workings of our Board of Directors represent, in the truest sense, an ongoing effort to “walk the talk” of relationship-based and reflective practice. This is not always easy to do, but is *always* worthwhile in the end. I could not have succeeded at the helm of the NMAIMH this past year without the intelligence, thoughtfulness, dedication, organizational skills, and reflective capacities of our Board Directors. It is in the spirit of gratitude and community (and strong and genuine relationships!) that I respectfully present our 2008 Annual Report to our NMAIMH membership and to our larger infant and early childhood stakeholder community.

As a parting thought, I offer the very best to our outgoing board member, Maria Brock, who earlier this year made the decision to resign as a Board Director to better

meet the needs of her family. Maria served the NMAIMH with grace, humor, and computer savvy as our assistant treasurer and chair of the membership committee. While her contributions are sorely missed, we support her decision to prioritize the needs of her family. I also heartily welcome and congratulate our new and continuing Board members who can confidently look ahead to another productive year. I offer my sincerest regrets at not being able to complete my own current term as president, but share my confidence in, and deep respect for our current vice president, Deborah Harris, who will resume the role of president, per our bylaws, finishing the term I will not be able to complete. I can think of no better replacement. I also look forward to cultivating new leadership for 2010, and am pleased to continue to serve with you all as a NMAIMH Board Director in 2009.

Sincerely,

*Marcia Moriarta, Psy.D. IMH-E (2007)*

Marcia Moriarta, Psy.D. IMH-E (2007)

President

Board of Directors

New Mexico Association for Infant Mental Health (NMAIMH)

## **NMAIMH YEAR IN REVIEW**

The New Mexico Association for Infant Mental Health (NMAIMH) launched 2008 with our 2007 Annual Meeting on January 30<sup>th</sup> in Albuquerque. Participants at the meeting were presented with highlights from our 2007 Annual Report and introduced to outgoing, newly elected, and continuing Board Directors. The presentation developed by the NMAIMH Endorsement Committee in 2007 to provide an overview of, and orientation to, the *NMAIMH Competency Guidelines and Endorsement System for Culturally Sensitive, Relationship-Focused Practice Promoting Infant Mental Health* was presented and additional materials developed by the Endorsement Committee, including descriptions of the endorsement process, endorsement “levels” and “Frequently Asked Questions” (FAQ1), were distributed to meeting participants. During the Annual Meeting, the NMAIMH website ([www.nmaimh.org](http://www.nmaimh.org)) was highlighted as an excellent source of information around the endorsement process and the Association. Our website continues to serve a vital function for our membership and others interested in learning more about NMAIMH and the endorsement process. Continuing Education Credits (CEU’s) were offered to participants at the 2007 Annual Meeting, establishing the inclusion of a CEU presentation as a traditional part of our Annual Meeting agenda.

Throughout the 2008, our membership and Board of Directors have participated in and presented at state and national meetings, conferences and training activities. In the fall, leadership from the Board of Directors were invited to participate in a now annual meeting of the *League of States* licensed by the Michigan Association for Infant Mental Health to implement the *Competency Guidelines and Endorsement System for Culturally Sensitive, Relationship-Focused Practice Promoting Infant Mental Health*.

The NMAIMH is very active in the national dialogue on building a competent Infant and Early Childhood workforce and our Association continues to be viewed by colleagues around the country as a leader in the promotion of infant mental health and competency-based workforce development.

The implementation of the endorsement system has been one of the major activities and accomplishments of the Association in 2008. As of the end of December 2008, the NMAIMH has endorsed seven professionals at Level 2 (Infant-Family Specialist); seven professionals at Level 3 (Infant Mental Health Specialist) and 11 professionals at Level 4 (2 Infant Mental Health Mentors - Policy and 9 Infant Mental Health Mentors -Clinical). These endorsed Infant Mental Health professionals live in Farmington, Santa Fe, northern NM, Silver City and Albuquerque. We have received 83 endorsement inquires since beginning implementation of the actual endorsement process in July 2007, and as of the end of December 2008 we have 40 people working with advisors including six new applicants from a Part C Family Infant Toddler (FIT) agency in Carlsbad and several groups from Las Cruces working on developing their portfolios.

Marcia Moriarta, current board president, presented about endorsement at our 2007 Annual meeting, at the Las Cumbres Community Services Early Childhood Mental Health Training Institute, and at the Early Childhood Systems of Care (ECSC) Summits in Moriarty and Las Vegas held this past fall. Jacqui Van Horn, Endorsement Committee chair, made the same endorsement presentation in collaboration with the Infant Toddler Mental Health Coalition of Arizona at the ECSC Summit for the Navajo Nation, held in Window Rock, in December, 2008. Other Board Directors have presented less formally on the endorsement process at meetings throughout the state this year.

NMAIMH now holds a leadership role within the *League of States* licensed by the Michigan Association for Infant Mental Health to implement the endorsement process in their own states. The *League States* now include: Arizona, Connecticut (competencies only), Kansas, Oklahoma, Minnesota, Michigan, New Mexico, and Texas. Other states are also exploring the license. This is significant to NMAIMH members because the *League States* have agreed to recognize other states' endorsements. As such, when you are endorsed by NMAIMH, your endorsement will be honored in the other states with the license to use the MI-AIMH process. The NMAIMH has, at the invitation of the MI-AIMH, taken an active leadership role in mentoring and supporting other states in the *League*. State endorsement leaders from each of the licensed states now meet annually for an endorsement retreat, and participate in monthly reflective calls together, to strengthen our practices and cross-state implementation of endorsement. This past year, representatives from our Board and Endorsement Committee participated in the first such retreat, focusing on reflective supervision, held in Arizona in September 2008. At present New Mexico is in contention as a possible location for the 2009 retreat of the *League of States*.

The NMAIMH Endorsement Committee has established a regular bi-monthly meeting schedule and endorsed committee members have been extremely active this year in advising applicants, reviewing portfolios, and reviewing/scoring exams (for those seeking endorsement at Levels 3 and 4). Several Endorsement Committee members were trained the exam review process by Deborah Weatherston and Sheryl Goldberg from the MI-AIMH this past year. In 2008, the exam was offered twice – in the spring and fall in Albuquerque. Jacqui Van Horn continues to do an exceptional job in her role as the

Endorsement Committee chair and was honored for her tireless commitment around implementing the endorsement process in New Mexico (as well as for her role as Board secretary) at our Board retreat in September. Other accomplishments of the Endorsement Committee include the development of a “Frequently Asked Questions – 2” (FAQ2) handout on endorsement and a Reflective Supervision “definition” paper. Both are available on the NMAIMH website ([www.nmaimh.org](http://www.nmaimh.org)), which continues to serve as a primary source of information around the Association and endorsement process.

In 2008, NMAIMH Board Directors and members were invited to present several workshops at the Infant and Toddler Mental Health Coalition (ITMHC) of Arizona 13<sup>th</sup> *Institute on Infant Toddler Infant Mental Health* held in Phoenix, AZ in September. Many NMAIMH members attended this conference which helped to strengthen our ties with our neighbors and friends in the ITMHC in Arizona.

In November, the NMAIMH co-sponsored a pre-conference session addressing Reflective Supervision as part of the ***Fourth Annual Interdisciplinary Early Care and Intervention Conference*** (IECIC) held Albuquerque. Our very own Board officers, Jacqui Van Horn and Deborah Harris presented this workshop, which was well-attended and very well received. In addition, the NMAIMH played an active role in supporting the University of New Mexico Center for Development and Disability Early Childhood and Specialized Personnel Division in sponsoring the full IECIC conference day which featured Dr. Neil Boris from Tulane University as keynote speaker. During the full conference day, NMAIMH Board Directors staffed a display table with information about the Association. Our membership and Directors were part of the conference organizing

committee, among the workshop presenters, and participated in the closing panel discussion.

This past year, the NMAIMH also formalized our representation on the Early Childhood Action Network (ECAN) Steering Committee and Board Director, Jane Clarke, (with Joe DeBonis as her back-up) has taken on this important post.

Additionally, Board Directors and NMAIMH members continue to be active on the Family Infant Toddler (FIT) Interagency Coordinating Council's (ICC) subcommittee on infant mental health. NMAIMH Board members additionally continued to work with the Behavioral Health Service Definition Committee to develop and refine an Infant Mental Health treatment service definition which is still in process.

In September, NMAIMH held our second Board of Directors' retreat and established priorities and needs for continued growth and development in the next year and beyond. Outcomes from this retreat included prioritizing the need for creating a paid staff position(s) to support the infrastructure of the Association and the volunteer efforts of our Board and membership. As a tangible outcome from this retreat, we have created a new *Fund Development* committee chaired by Mary Ann Demaree and hope to add additional members to this committee in the upcoming months. The goal of this new committee is to assist in identifying and accessing grants and other sources of funding to support our growth as an organization and in particular to support the workload associated with the implementation of the endorsement process. We also identified the need to actively cultivate leadership within the NMAIMH as a primary goal for the upcoming year.

In addition, our *Membership* and *Nominating* Committees, under the chairpersonship of Joe DeBonis/Holly Harrison and Deborah Harris, respectively, have made excellent gains this year in better organizing and formalizing our processes for new members, renewing members, and our Board nomination and election processes. As of December 30<sup>th</sup>, the NMAIMH had 150 members, with a total of 84 new members joining in 2008. This represents remarkable growth in one year!

In closing, the NMAIMH has had a very successful, busy, and productive year. I again, want to thank our hard-working Board of Directors for all their contributions and wisdom, and our membership for their dedication to bettering the lives of infants, toddlers and their families. I additionally want to thank UNM Center for Development and Disability, the United Way of Central New Mexico, and Peanut Butter & Jelly for the use of their meeting space for our Board meetings, Annual Meeting and Retreat, respectively. In addition, on behalf of the Board I thank Value Options New Mexico for the use of their conference call line for our Board meetings up through early 2008, and also thank the UNM Center for Development and Disability for coordinating the use of teleconferencing with sites in Las Cruces and Santa Fe for our Board meetings when we no longer had access to the call line from Value Options. Both conferencing options helped reduce travel for Board Directors and members and increased participation in our meetings. We thank you all for your support of the NMAIMH!

**New Mexico Association for Infant Mental Health  
Annual Meeting - January 21, 2009**

**REPORT OF FINANCES**

**FISCAL YEAR 2008**

**REVENUE:**

Contracts - IMH Summit.....	\$1,127.18
Dues.....	3,180.00
Endorsement Application.....	6,465.00
NMAIMH Materials.....	1,095.00
Donations.....	390.00
Interest.....	70.24
	<hr/>

**TOTAL.....** \$12,327.42

**EXPENSE:**

IMH Endorsement License.....	\$1000.00
MI AIMH Consultation and Training.....	2057.88
Administrative Assistant.....	1760.70
Web Site Hosting Fee.....	96.00
Dream Weaver Course.....	175.00
Printing.....	300.00
Office Supplies & postage.....	1146.16
Telephone & Fax.....	635.30
2008 Annual Meeting & BOD Retreat (food).....	495.98
IECE/ECN Conference.....	2980.00
Fee Return.....	275.00
Other Misc. Expenses .....	103.65
	<hr/>

**TOTAL:.....** \$11,025.67

**GAIN/(LOSS):.....** \$ 1,301.75

Bank Balance as of 12/31/2008..... \$24,376.33