

## Research Committee Break-Out Group

Chair: Ann Easterbrooks

Recorder: J. Kevin Nugent

The Research Break-Out Group was made up of “producers and consumers of research”, as was pointed out in the introduction. Research interests represented included: risk and resilience, program evaluation, social-emotional development programs, trauma, maternal depression, prevention and intervention, substance abuse and high-risk infant follow-up.

Three questions were posed to the group for discussion:

1. What are the “burning issues” and areas of need that MassAIMH should consider?
2. What ideas and opportunities for action should MassAIMH consider?
3. What networks and connections would facilitate our work on these issues?

Our conversation considered these key questions, concerns and recommendations, as noted below:

1. In order to incorporate research findings into clinical intervention programs, can MassAIMH help by translating research and making it accessible to practitioners, “making research available and useful”? The example of “Frameworks” and “The Center for the Developing Child” were presented as examples of the kind of information MassAIMH could provide.
2. Can MassAIMH use the new website to provide research news or “research alerts” about relevant new research to people in the field?
3. Could MassAIMH provide members with access to library journals?
4. Could MassAIMH provide professional training?
5. Could MassAIMH have a speaker clearing house?
6. Since there are competing data sets out in the public domain, could the MassAIMH website play a role in clarifying and addressing these discrepancies?
7. A critical research area to be addressed concerns health disparities.
8. Another important research theme is the issue of screening and diagnostic criteria.
9. A worthy challenge for MassAIMH is to foster collaborative research efforts, by making members aware of what is going on across the state. Researchers could upload abstracts to the website.
10. Could we have a Community Bulletin board on our site or set up Community Forum and blog, using either *Linked-In* or *Google Groups*?
11. Forging connections between researchers and practitioners. Reiterating the importance of linking academic communities with community programs, it was agreed that MassAIMH could play a key role in fostering collaborative associations between academic faculties and practitioners in the field. These relationships might a) foster program/practitioner access to training from the experts who have produced and/or understand the research, and b) allow researchers to be proactive in facilitating successful grant applications by linking researchers with practitioners who have access to potential study populations of interest.

**There was enthusiasm about many of these issues, and the conversation is just beginning.**

