

SPECIAL DELIVERY

Newsletter of FIU's Maternal and Child Health Training Program

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We are currently accepting submissions for our next newsletter! If you'd like to contribute, please e-mail:

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MCH Global News: Emergency Polio Vaccination Campaign in Gaza



Due to the detection of the first polio case in Gaza in the last 25 years, a vaccination campaign has been initiated by several health organizations looking to prevent a massive outbreak amongst the child population. A recent World Health Organization (WHO) news release indicated that around 560,000 children have already been successfully vaccinated during the first round of the emergency polio vaccination campaign in Gaza. A second round of the campaign is planned within four weeks to provide a second dose of nOPV2 to children in Gaza to stop the outbreak and prevent it from spreading internationally. The situation in Gaza, has showcased how low vaccination, combined with poor health infrastructure and weakened sanitation can lead to detrimental impacts on the spread of illness. Furthermore, consistent vaccination campaigns are critical for ongoing prevention of viral outbreaks, as viruses can reemerge if there are low vaccination rates within a population.

Click here to read more

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LMCH Attends 13th Annual Breastfeeding Awareness Family Day



BreastfeedMIAMI is a collective community catalyst in advocating, promoting, and supporting breastfeeding to empower mothers, fathers, partners, and families to breastfeed children throughout Miami-Dade County.



FIU's Leaders of Maternal and Child Health volunteered at Miami-Dade WIC & BreastfeedMIAMI's 13th Annual Breastfeeding Awareness Family Day on Saturday, August 24th! It was a fun, interactive, family event to raise awareness on breastfeeding and human milk feeding.



Community Events

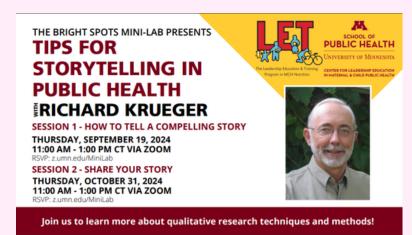
The Miami Black Women's Forum is a communal space that celebrates the history and accomplishments of Black women in the FIU and South Florida community. The forum will provide students with the space to network and build relationships across academic disciplines and community partnerships.





The Art of Breastfeeding Brunch & Exhibition is a visual exhibition showcasing the beauty and diversity of breastfeeding, pump-feeding, and chest-feeding among mothers, fathers and members of diverse family settings and ethnicities. The exhibition is taking place on Saturday, October 19th from 11:00am - 3:00pm. This is a FREE event and open to all.

AOB Brunch & Exhibition RSVP



Are you interested in identifying elements of effective public health stories?
Are you interested in using stories to promoting making healthy decisions and habits?

Do you want to be entered into a raffle to win \$50 for sharing your story? If you answer YES to any, these sessions are for you! RSVP <u>here</u>

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MCH Student Spotlight: Bisiola Fortune Evans



1. Can you describe your current role and the main responsibilities you handle?

For the last 20 years, I have served as a *Program Manager for the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) Ryan White HIV/AIDS grant, focusing on Women, Infants, Children, and Youth.* In this role, I supervise a team of 12 care coordinators, and together we work to remove barriers related to the social determinants of health. Our program is dedicated to ensuring that our clients have access to comprehensive services, including medical care, case management, social service support, counseling, emergency financial assistance, and support for medication adherence.

2. What skills or knowledge from your MPH have been most useful in your job?

My Master's in Public Health, with a concentration in Maternal and Child Health (MCH), has been highly valuable in my role. The program provided me with the *skills and knowledge to address the unique health challenges faced by women, children, and families*. Coursework in areas such as program design and evaluation, advocacy, policy development, epidemiology, and reproductive health has been particularly useful. Additionally, the focus on adolescent health, social disparities, and family systems has equipped me to better understand and tackle the complex issues impacting maternal and child health in my work.

3. What advice would you give to current students who are preparing to enter the job market?

My advice to current students is to *prioritize networking as a crucial part of career development*. Get involved in groups or organizations that align with your interests, and take every opportunity to volunteer and collaborate. While school equips you with the necessary fundamentals, gaining real-world experience and building relationships through mentorship will take you much further. Don't underestimate the power of connections—these can open doors, provide guidance, and lead to opportunities that you may not encounter through academics alone.

4. If you could go back and give your younger self one piece of career advice, what would it be?

If I could give my younger self one piece of career advice, it would be to *trust my instincts, be patient, and give myself more grace*. I've often been my own toughest critic, which led to self-doubt and second-guessing. In hindsight, trusting my abilities has taken me further than I ever imagined and opened doors I didn't anticipate. Learning to believe in myself and embrace the journey, with all its ups and downs, would have saved me a lot of unnecessary stress.

5. Are there any particular experiences or projects from your time at university that you find particularly relevant to your current job?

One particularly relevant experience from my time at university was the Program Evaluation course. It gave me a comprehensive understanding of the principles and practices involved in evaluating public health programs. I gained hands-on experience in designing and implementing program evaluations, developing logic models, selecting appropriate evaluation methods, and using data to assess program effectiveness. In my current role, where I conduct internal audits to ensure compliance with grant deliverables, this knowledge has been invaluable. Understanding how to design program plans, evaluate processes, measure impact and outcomes, and assess overall program effectiveness has directly contributed to my ability to monitor and improve the quality of the services we provide.