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Georgia Southern hosts the 2016 Healthcare Symposium, “Truths and Myths behind Childhood Vaccinations”

March 14, 2016



In its third year, Georgia Southern’s Master of Healthcare Administration (MHA) program and the Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health will sponsor the 2016 Healthcare Symposium. “[Truths and Myths behind Childhood Vaccinations](#),” on March 24, 10 – 11:30 a.m., in the University’s Performing Arts Center (PAC). The symposium is free and open to students, staff, faculty and the community.

This year’s symposium will promote a greater understanding of childhood vaccinations and will provide stimulating information on one of the most important public health topics within our community.

Andi Shane, M.D. will serve as the program’s featured guest speaker. Dr. Shane is an associate professor of pediatrics for the Division of Infectious Disease and associate Professor of Global Health at Emory University School of Medicine. Dr. Shane is also the medical director for the Hospital Epidemiology and Infection Prevention at Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta. “We are most pleased to have an expert with infectious diseases such as Dr. Andi Shane to present this important symposium on children’s disease prevention,” said James Stephens, D.H.A., M.H.A, program director for the MHA. “It is an important discussion of the sciences associated with vaccinations for children which should be of value for all people in our communities.”

Georgia Southern University, a Carnegie Doctoral/Research University founded in 1906, offers 125 degree programs serving nearly 20,500 students. Through eight colleges, the University offers bachelor’s, master’s and doctoral degree programs built on more than a century of academic achievement. Georgia Southern is recognized for its student-centered approach to education. GeorgiaSouthern.edu.

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Georgia Southern Conducts a State-Level Analysis of MCH Partnerships

March 14, 2016



As one of many organizations within a system of networks, numerous U.S. local health departments (LHDs) use partnerships as a structural intervention to address physical, mental, social concerns of women and infants.

Drs. Barnes and Shah administered an eighteen-item online survey to 93 LHDs between March and June 2014. Descriptive and Pearson Chi-Square analyses were conducted using SPSS 23.0. The state level study examined current levels of maternal and child partnerships among Indiana LHDs and sectors in the public health system. Geography and organizational readiness (infant mortality listed as a goal in the strategic plan) were used as proxy measures to examine how likely LHDs work with these sectors.

The researchers concluded that LHDs reported having more formal (coordinating, cooperating, collaborating) partnerships with hospitals, the state health department, and physician practices/medical groups. LHDs less frequently reported partnerships with transportation, midwives, and parks and recreation. Furthermore, LHDs in non-metropolitan LHDs were more likely to have both informal and formal partnerships with non-public health sectors than LHDs in metropolitan jurisdictions. LHDs that did not have infant mortality as a goal in their strategic plan were more likely to have informal partnerships with health care, health insurance, and quasi-governmental organizations.

Dr. Priscilla A. Barnes, Indiana University-Bloomington was the lead author. Dr. Laura T. Haderxhanaj, Indiana University-Bloomington, and Dr. Gulzar Shah, Associate Dean of Research at the Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health Georgia Southern University were co-authors.

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