



AMTC

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News

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ANGELA TURNER

AMTC News

Joshua Becker, Writer & Editor

4465 N. Oakland Avenue
Suite 200

Milwaukee, WI 53211
Phone: (414) 316-4530
Fax: (414) 316-4545

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Inspired by Our AMTC APP Conference

We accomplished a lot in just three days at our AMTC & Associates Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention (APP) Conference in Savannah, Georgia, in June. Experiencing this conference with our clients inspired me, in terms of both learning and forging bonds with old and new colleagues. Participants deepened knowledge of their leadership skills, to understand themselves better and to gain a greater awareness of others' leadership styles. By deepening this understanding, team members may relate better to each other. In turn, organizations function more smoothly, which enhances their ability to serve constituents. Teambuilding is integral, so attendees engaged in The Amazing Race scavenger-hunt and applied their newfound leadership knowledge. Learn more on page two.

We dove into the new APP focus areas and requirements, such as mental health and trauma-informed care, thanks to a presentation by Autumn Wagoner, one of the sidebar contributors in this newsletter (and highlighted in our March/April 2022 newsletter). Another focal point was health disparities. Our clients serve

individuals and communities that are disproportionately affected by unintended pregnancies, sexually transmitted infections, and other outcomes. We focused on ways to reduce disparities, particularly through the wisdom of the participants themselves—the very people who know their communities best. AMTC associates Dr. Brandon Osborn and Dr. Salvador Dominguez designed the presentation, but it was our participants who devised ways to create solutions (see page three). Page four introduces Melanie Porterfield, our longest tenured associate, and Hannah Boyd, who recently joined.

Three days resulted in valuable insights and strategies that will lead us into the future. I offer my heartfelt thanks to everyone who attended and am grateful for the opportunity to serve you.

Gratefully yours,

Angela Turner
Principal



Highly engaged participants connected at the AMTC APP Conference.

Emerging APP Priorities

AT AMTC CONFERENCE

Participants converged this summer in Savannah, Georgia, for the AMTC & Associates Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention (APP) Conference for three packed days of collaborative work and camaraderie. Ten organizations from across the U.S. were represented, including 60 attendees. The conference focused on three categories: Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI); trauma-informed care; and mental health. Within each category, organizations are mandated to meet criteria set forth by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Population Affairs. AMTC associates, who are experts in these areas, delivered presentations on health disparities and how they relate to health equity (see article on page three), as well as mental health and trauma-informed care.

To serve communities and

colleagues with excellence, it is important that staff members consistently examine their internal practices to run at peak efficiency; to foster this, participants engaged in a Five Voices presentation delivered by Doug Hurley of Rethink Work Consulting and Coaching, LLC. The aim was to identify each person's leadership style and how to leverage it in an organizational context. Participants took an assessment called Five Voices. Insightful discussions ensued about building on each other's strengths to be even more effective.

In a team-building activity called The Amazing Race, participants applied what they learned from the Five Voices presentation. They were teamed together to find different items and answer certain questions on River Street, a popular Savannah destination. Melanie Porterfield,

Senior Evaluation Associate for AMTC, helped coordinate the conference (see profile, page 4). When asked the point of the activity, she answered, "to use those skills [from the Five Voices presentation] to get teams working together and tapping into their leadership strengths. It helps participants answer the questions—how do I show up in a room when I work in a team, and what leadership values do I bring to the table? It also makes everyone more empathetic to other people's leadership styles."

As is true of every AMTC conference, participants gained valuable tools and information to advance their work. "Allowing people to come together in an environment outside of work or even their state," noted Porterfield, "helps with cohesiveness and allows teams to bond."



Conference Snapshots

ADVANCING HEALTH EQUITY

Everyone deserves ample opportunities for optimal health and living conditions, which is why one of the focus areas at the APP Conference was, “Health Disparities and How They Relate to Health Equity,” a presentation prepared by AMTC Senior Research Associate Dr. Brandon Osborn and Research Associate Dr. Salvador Dominguez. Disparities related to adolescent pregnancy involve socially-driven differences in pregnancy-related outcomes, such as higher teen birth rates and sexually transmitted infections, that could have been prevented. AMTC and its clients are working to advance health equity, and the conference presentation and discussion proved to be a great opportunity to dialogue about this shared goal.

The journey begins with recognizing the causes

that may lead to inequitable outcomes, such as poverty, cultural/social norms, and stigma. Osborn noted one of the most significant factors is a lack of resources, particularly in the areas of quality education and health services, which

varies across geographic locations. During the conference, participants engaged in discussions about disparities that exist in their communities—and how to address them with community-specific solutions. “We tried to make the experience relevant,” said Osborn, “because the challenges of health equity are all very local. We certainly provided general information on how to address disparities, but we don’t have all the answers. The answers with the highest impact come from the people of the communities they serve.”



*Dr. Brandon Osborn,
AMTC Senior Research
Associate*



*Dr. Salvador Dominguez,
AMTC Research
Associate*



“Not all children experience child-traumatic stress after experiencing a traumatic event, but those who do can recover.”

Autumn Wagoner, a licensed social worker and Youth Resource Coordinator at Mission West Virginia, delivered a presentation on mental health at the APP Conference. She supports students struggling with mental health, self-esteem, bullying, trauma, managing emotions, and more. Wagoner regularly presents on these essential topics.

Although there is no cookie-cutter approach to advance equity, some proven strategies include using evidenced-based interventions, fostering cultural sensitivity, and improving access to quality education and healthcare. AMTC clients will continue building strong partnerships with educational institutions and healthcare organizations, as well as networking and advocating for change.

Participants enjoyed opportunities to learn and interact at the conference.



Meet Our *Associates*

Our diverse team delivers fast, relevant results for our clients. Here are two individuals who contribute to those efforts.



MELANIE PORTERFIELD
SENIOR EVALUATION
ASSOCIATE

WITH AMTC SINCE 2005

EDUCATION: Bachelor's degrees
in Sociology and Computer
Graphic Design



HANNAH BOYD
FIELD RESEARCH ASSOCIATE

WITH AMTC SINCE SPRING 2023

EDUCATION: Certifications in
APP, healthy relationships,
mental health, trauma-informed
care, and financial literacy
curricula

When did you begin at AMTC?

I have worked with Angela, the Principal of AMTC, for 18 years. I was her first employee, having joined AMTC in 2005.

Your tenure with AMTC has included many different roles.

What are you doing currently?

I am the lead over our APP projects working specifically with Teen Pregnancy Prevention (TPP) and the Personal Responsibility Education Program (PREP).

What was your role in the AMTC APP Conference?

As the event manager, I planned the location, venue, accommodations, meals, and more. Most importantly, I planned the agenda and guest speakers, and ensured that the event ran smoothly.

What did you hope participants would walk away with?

From a leadership perspective, I wanted participants to receive insights on the strengths of their team members, a deeper understanding of what youth are experiencing as far as mental health is concerned, and a deeper understanding of what is meant by health equity.

How did the engagement level and camaraderie seem at the conference?

Camaraderie seemed to be high and everyone seemed to be learning and having a good time doing it.

What do you feel made the conference successful?

The level of engagement by participants and the comments regarding how great they thought the conference was.

What are your personal takeaways from the conference?

It was great to bring everyone together again post-pandemic and have a successful informational training session.

When did you begin at AMTC?

I started contract work beginning in December 2022 and became a full-time associate in May 2023.

Please name a few previous work experiences.

Non-profit project management, case management, and education. Working with programs such as AmeriCorps, Children of Inmates, and PREP.

What does your general work entail at AMTC?

I develop and manage policies, procedures, systems, contracts, and program budgets, as well as grant-required applications and reports on behalf of AMTC clients. I provide support to clients for APP programs and deliver technical assistance to ensure compliance.

How does this work impact AMTC and its clients?

By employing a holistic approach to supporting clients, I consider all aspects of their program needs and provide informed recommendations for implementing their programs to their fullest potential.

What do you personally find fulfilling about your work?

Having previously been in several client-facing roles, I am able to match the work we do to our clients' needs and the individuals impacted by it. I know what it is like to receive the benefits of AMTC support and am overjoyed to provide it for others!

What is your impression of AMTC so far?

The kindness and support of AMTC leadership and my colleagues is unmatched. AMTC fosters a strong culture of teamwork, with a commitment to excellence in serving our clients.

Outside of work, what do you enjoy?

I am a fitness enthusiast! I also enjoy art, music, fashion, and time with loved ones!