

Systems Thinking for Maternal and Child Health: Applications in Practice

Instructor: Donna Petersen, MHS, ScD

Course Description

Systems thinking and using the systems approach to manage public health controversies can provide new and exciting opportunities and collaborations, yet the importance of this concept is often overlooked. Many disciplines converge in this problem-solving approach and bring new ideas to the forefront of today's critical public health issues. In this seminar, Dr. Donna Petersen will explore how systems thinking can be applied to Maternal and Child Health and analyze the advantages of using this method to solve current and future challenges in public health. *NOTE: This course was originally delivered as a satellite broadcast.*

Learning Objectives

- Define “systems thinking” in a Maternal and Child Health context.
- Discuss current Maternal and Child Health/public health opportunities and challenges that call for a systems approach (give concrete examples).
- Describe the application of systems thinking in Maternal and Child Health practice.
- Compare and contrast the benefits using a systems approach and potential negative consequences of not using a systems approach.

CEUs

Nursing 1 hour

Social Workers 1 hour

**The Alabama Department of Public Health is an approved provider of continuing nursing education by the Alabama State Nurses Association, an accredited approver by the American Nurses Credentialing Center's Commission on Accreditation.*

Core Competencies for Public Health Professionals *Council on Linkages between Academia and Public Health Practice

- 2B5: Uses decision analysis for policy development and program planning
- 8C2: Integrates systems thinking into public health practice

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