

**Miller, Diane M. (CDC/NIOSH/EID)**

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**From:** fitz-randolph.marcy@mcrf.mfldclin.edu  
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**Cc:** Chen, Jihong (Jane) (CDC/NIOSH/EID) (CTR)  
**Subject:** 145 - ChildAIP Comments

**Name**

Marcy Fitz-Randolph, DO, MPH

**Organization**

National Children's Center for Rural and Agricultural Health and Safety

**Email**

fitz-randolph.marcy@mcrf.mfldclin.edu

**Address**

1000 N. Oak Avenue  
Marshfield, WI 54449  
USA

**Comments**

**To:** CDC/NIOSH  
**From:** Marcy Fitz-Randolph, DO, MPH  
Prevention, Intervention and Translation Core Leader  
National Children's Center for Rural and Agricultural Health and Safety

Thank you for this opportunity to review the NIOSH CAIP Initiative: Programs and Proposed Future Activities document. We at the National Children's Center for Rural and Agricultural Health and Safety appreciate the fact that NIOSH continues to carry the leadership on the issue of preventing injuries to children who work on, live on and visit farms and agricultural worksites.

We would like to clarify a few details in the CAIP Initiative review document. The National Children's Center for Rural and Agricultural Health and Safety (NCCRAHS), located in Marshfield, WI, has not received funding from the Maternal and Child Health Bureau since 2003. In addition to the Agritourism materials mentioned, other recent activities of the Children's Center have included continued work with the Childhood Agricultural Safety Network and its "Keep Kids Away from Tractors" campaign, Journalists' Workshops on childhood agricultural injury prevention in the media, creation of Safety Guidelines for Hired Adolescent Farmworkers (SaGHAF), and a policy review of the Hazardous Occupations Orders for Agriculture exemptions for youth working on their family farms (details at <http://www.marshfieldclinic.org/NCCRAHS>). Over the past several years, 33 mini-grants have been awarded; these have funded such projects as Farm Safety Day Camp curriculum evaluations, mobile safety training materials aimed at vulnerable populations, focus groups with farm parents, nursing student education in childhood agricultural injury prevention, and many more (see [http://www.marshfieldclinic.org/nccrahs/default.aspx?page=nccrahs\\_titleprojects](http://www.marshfieldclinic.org/nccrahs/default.aspx?page=nccrahs_titleprojects)). The breadth of activities that NIOSH has made possible through the funding of a dedicated Children's Center, distinct from the regional Agricultural Centers, has allowed the focus to remain on children as a vulnerable population in agriculture, deserving of the specific attention and resources provided by the NIOSH CAIP Initiative.

Since NIOSH formalized the Initiative in 1996, both etiologic and intervention-type R01s have been funded. Only a limited number of intervention studies have reported measurable impacts. Thus, it is difficult to recommend specific directions for the future with any certainty. With this in mind, the National Children's Center has begun a project, the Blueprint for Knowledge Translation, which will expand our understanding of the impacts the CAIP Initiative has had on childhood agricultural injury rates over the past decade. Sue Gallagher, of Tufts University School of Medicine, is leading this project in order to provide an informed yet impartial review of intervention studies funded not only by NIOSH but other sources as well. Her unbiased collection of information about the impacts of research will enable everyone working in childhood agricultural injury prevention to gain a fresh perspective on the

issue. We hope the resulting Blueprint for Knowledge Translation document (anticipated in late 2010), together with other assessments of the NIOSH CAIP Initiative such as this current public comment process, will guide the next decades of childhood agricultural injury prevention.