



May 30, 2024

Dr. Margaret Holmberg,

It is an honor and privilege to award you the Connecticut Association for Infant Mental Health (CT-AIMH) 2024 Jane C. Bourns Award for Excellence for Exemplary Service to Young Children and Families in the field of Infant, Early Childhood Mental Health. You have been a founder, leader, and guiding light for CT-AIMH since its inception. You served as a CT-AIMH Board member and President, a founding member of the Alliance for the Advancement of Infant Mental Health, and their Board President; and an inspiring leader and strong advocate for infant and early childhood mental health for over 40 years. We can't even imagine what this journey would have been like without your clear vision, your gentle strength, your warm collaborative way, your steadfast commitment, and your informed and wise guidance.

Already a respected leader in the Southeast Connecticut community, you were a natural for the initial leadership team. You were familiar with multiple sectors in the early childhood system, you knew the void created by limited infant mental health capacity within the professional community and services system, and you saw the potential a CT Association might have, reflective of the Michigan model, for infants and toddlers and their families as well as all those who partner with and support them.

You always had a welcoming approach to building the CT Association. You were a partner with leaders from various sectors in setting a 'birthing plan' and brought together a diverse group of practitioners and leaders for the very first CT-AIMH Reflective Supervision/ Consultation group. Because of the visibility of your success in the early days of the Association, when invited by the Children's Bureau to be in the first cohort of Early Childhood Child Welfare grantees, it was unquestionable that CT-AIMH would be a key partner and that the federal grant application would be based on the establishment of the 8-day DCF infant mental health training series and subsidized reflective supervision/consultation, both of which continue today and which opened the door for ongoing DCF funding.

You wrote many influential papers on topics such as: reflective practice, infant mental health practices, workforce development, CT-AIMH's work during COVID, etc. You also presented at Zero to Three and World Congresses of the World Association for Infant Mental Health. Your scholarship and leadership extend beyond the borders of our state, reaching far and over many years through your notable leadership contributions to the Alliance for Infant Mental Health and the World Association.

In appreciation for your contributions to our children and families, our profession, and our local, state, national and world communities the CT Association of Infant Mental Health is establishing The Margaret Holmberg Scholarship Fund, beginning in 2025.

With great respect and warmth,  
Heidi Maderia, CT-AIMH Executive Director

CT-AIMH  
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[www.ct-aimh.org](http://www.ct-aimh.org)

**Margaret's work In Connecticut:**

- Member of the Child Health and Development Institute task force on early childhood mental health (2000-2002)
- Member of work group to establish the CT-Association for Infant Mental Health (2002-2004)
- Vice President of the Board of Directors (2004-2005)
- President of the Board of Directors (2005-2015)
- Convened with Judith Meyers a Connecticut Higher Ed Research group working on infant mental health issues that led to plan to purchase of Competency Guidelines for Culturally Competent, Relationship Focused Practice for Infant Mental Health® (2008)
- Facilitated Competency Planning Consortium (2008-2010)
- Chaired DCF Regional Advisory Council (2000-2006) and served as fiduciary representative from LEARN for Building Blocks, one of the first SAMHSA Early Childhood System of Care grants (2000-2006).
- Served on the SAMHSA Workforce Transformation grant that led to CT-AIMH purchasing the license for the Endorsement for Culturally Competent, Relationship Focused Practice for Infant Mental Health® (2010)
- Member of the initial Connecticut leadership group to become Endorsed in Culturally Competent, Relationship Focused Practice for Infant Mental Health® (2009)
- Developed a document on Reflective Practice in the Workplace with Christina Mills (2011)
- Presented with Grace Whitney at League/Alliance annual meetings, MI-AIMH annual meeting, Zero to Three, and WAIMH conferences on Reflective Practice in the Workplace
- Assisted Birth to Three staff in writing and updating the Infant Mental Health Guidelines (2007-2009)
- Advised CHDI publications on Infant Mental Health Workforce (2013 and 2015)
- Developed the initial DCF/Head Start multiday training curriculum (2012)
- Served on CT-AIMH professional development (2008-present), policy, and diversity, equity, inclusion and access committees and on the Board of Director nominating committee (present).

**Alliance Work:**

- Served on annual meeting planning committees for national League and later Alliance for the Advancement of Infant Mental Health (2010-2021).
- Served on presentation panels on variety of IMH organization topics at League/Alliance meetings beginning in 2010.
- Represented Connecticut as a founding member of the Alliance for the Advancement of Infant Mental Health (2016 – 2018)
- Served as the founding president of the Alliance AIMH Board of Directors (2018-2020)
- Participated in initial work to develop the Reflective Interaction Observation Scale (RIOS) (2010)
- Served on Alliance Policy, Research, and the current Sustainability Workgroup (2020-present)
- Facilitate the Alliance Research Training Evaluation sub workgroup (2020-present)
- Co-author on three Perspective articles that focused on CT-AIMH, one on the development of CT-AIMH with Grace Whitney (2013), the development of the Alliance with Ashley McCormick (2018) and how CT-AIMH supported the workforce during COVID with Heidi Maderia (2021).