

Perinatal Summit Action Plan Two-Year Update (July 2006 - July 2008)

L.A. County Perinatal Summit Partners have committed to the continued implementation of the Perinatal Summit Recommendations and Action Plan. The Perinatal Summit "Healthy Births Through Healthy Communities: Connecting Leadership to Achieve a Unified Commitment to Action" held October 24-25, 2005, convened more than 170 people representing more than 60 organizations. Participants of the Summit, which was hosted by LA Best Babies Network, the L.A. County Department of Public Health's Maternal, Child, and Adolescent Health (MCAH) Programs and the March of Dimes Greater L.A. Division, collectively developed a set of recommendations for interventions aimed at improving pregnancy and birth outcomes.

The Perinatal Summit itself was the first phase in a three-phase strategic process to engage communities and key leaders, as well as identify strategies to improve birth outcomes and eliminate disparities in care. After identifying the key perinatal issues and recommended interventions for systems change at the two-day event, Summit planning partners entered Phase II, the development of the Perinatal Summit Action Plan with health leaders committed to action under each of the areas. Phase III, the Implementation Phase for an 18-month period, began in July 2006. The initial implementation phase laid the foundation for the work that continues today, two years later. All partners remain committed to the action plans and to realizing the goals of each recommendation and the overall goal of improved access to quality perinatal services for women and families in L.A. County.

As we move toward realizing our goals, the Perinatal Summit Partners encourage continued involvement of all Perinatal Summit participants. Representatives from interested organizations are encouraged to participate in the ongoing efforts of each of the workgroups as outlined below.

Recommendation #1 - Build upon and strengthen comprehensive perinatal services for all women

The workgroup has made many strides toward expanding comprehensive perinatal services to all women. LA Best Babies Network successfully launched the Healthy Births Care Quality Collaborative (HBCQC), which included 10 clinical sites, and succeeded at meeting two objectives: increasing the number of sites implementing best practice clinical guidelines during prenatal care, and having 80% of sites increase the number of women screened and treated by 20% above baseline for one or more core measures. As the Network launches the second HBCQC, the workgroup is laying the foundation for an evaluation of the Comprehensive Perinatal Services Program (CPSP). The workgroup's activities to date have included:

- Outlining the components of the state's Comprehensive Perinatal Services Program (CPSP) and compiling a list of CPSP providers in L.A. County.
- Conducting a literature search reviewing comprehensive perinatal services, minimum service requirements, barriers under various models and the effects of the care model on outcomes.
- Identifying quality of care measures used by health plans to assist with the evaluation of comprehensive perinatal care models.
- Developing an evaluation framework for CPSP and submitting grant proposals for CPSP evaluation.
- Through LA Best Babies Network, developing a quality framework for ambulatory perinatal care and launching a data registry for the practice sites to regularly assess their progress. The Network recently launched the second Healthy Births Care Quality Collaborative (HBCQC). The collaborative includes 10 clinical sites, all approved CPSP providers.

Recommendation #2 - Assure every eligible newborn is enrolled in Medi-Cal before leaving the hospital

While this workgroup is actively advocating for the implementation of the electronic newborn enrollment at the state level, they continue to encourage hospitals in L.A. County to enroll newborns in eligible insurance before they leave the hospital. The workgroup has developed a comprehensive toolkit for hospitals to implement a newborn enrollment policy. Under the leadership of Maternal and Child Health Access (MCH Access) the workgroup's activities to date have included:

- Reviewing the status of newborn enrollment in L.A. County.
- Establishing a baseline number of Newborn Referral Forms used in L.A. County.
- Developing a toolkit (best practice) model for newborn enrollment in Medi-Cal and disseminating it to hospitals in L.A. County.
- Working with new partners Hospital Association of Southern California and Perinatal Advisory Council: Leadership, Advocacy and Consultation (PAC/LAC) to encourage high-volume delivery hospitals to implement a model for newborn enrollment.
- Urging the state to implement electronic enrollment solutions by advocating for the implementation of SB 24, which will establish a voluntary system of electronic enrollment in birth hospitals in California. In early July 2008, the state released a report required by SB 24 on the feasibility of electronic enrollment.

Recommendation #3 - Integrate perinatal resources into the 2-1-1 system

This workgroup has successfully partnered with 211 LA County to integrate more than 700 perinatal resources into the 211 county information helpline. The L.A. County Department of Public Health's Maternal, Child and Adolescent Health Programs has been instrumental in assuring its programs are all included in the 211 system. The Best Babies Collaboratives (BBCs) and the Healthy Births Learning Collaboratives (HBLCs) have actively worked with members to submit information to 211 LA County. LA Best Babies Network also partnered with 211 LA County to increase the number of perinatal mental health resources included in their database. This workgroup is moving toward developing training modules for staff of 211 LA County on perinatal health subjects to better assist women and families. The workgroup's activities to date have included:

- Integrating perinatal resources into the 2-1-1 system in an effort to expand resources. New resources added include: 65 for maternal depression treatment; 34 for weight management; 131 nutrition programs; 52 breastfeeding support programs; and 441 for physical fitness.
- L.A. County Department of Public Health MCAH Programs updating their roster of providers who met the criteria for inclusion with 2-1-1 in the Comprehensive Perinatal Services Program (CPSP) and in Black Infant Health
- As part of the First 5 LA Healthy Births Initiative, the Best Babies Collaboratives (BBCs) regularly updating their information in 2-1-1 and actively promoting its use. With the expansion of the Healthy Births Initiative the new BBC's will be doing the same.
- The Healthy Births Learning Collaboratives identifying the development of a resource guide as a critical component for their respective action plans, submitting information to 211 LA County and actively promoting its use.
- Establishing a 2-1-1 referral to park programs and to activities that address improving nutrition and physical activity.
- Planning standard presentations targeting several audiences, in order to promote 2-1-1 as the main referral agency in L.A. County.

Recommendation # 4 - Promote risk-appropriate perinatal care

This recommendation is being addressed on four fronts: Process, Data, Best Practice Models, and Quality Improvement. With the assistance of a grant from the March of Dimes, this issue is being addressed statewide, as well as in L.A. County. The workgroup established a Medical Advisory Panel comprised of specialists from throughout the state whose role is to direct the search for standards, model policies and procedures, as well as successful statewide systems of care. The advisory panel hosted two statewide summits and developed key recommendations on risk-appropriate care as outlined below. The workgroup's activities to date have included:

- The March of Dimes providing a grant to Regional Perinatal Programs of California (RPPC) to address this issue statewide.
- Establishing a Medical Advisory Panel comprised of specialists to direct the search for standards, model policies and procedures, as well as successful statewide systems of care.
- Hosting two statewide summits to develop the following recommendations for risk-appropriate maternal care:
 - Define standards in California for levels of maternal care similar to the neonatal standards. Determine appropriate oversight body to review and determine levels for each hospital that provides obstetric services.
 - Convene third party payers to identify disincentives within the reimbursement system that undermine a fully implemented risk-appropriate care system.
 - Implement the Preterm Labor Assessment Toolkit in all Level I (CCS) hospitals or hospitals with quality improvement potential as identified by their rate of very low-birthweight deliveries reported via birth certificates, CHART and CMQCC reports
 - Develop standards and guidelines for maternal transport to be implemented at all hospitals providing obstetric services.
 - Collaborate with RPPC Directors in L.A. County to assess the status of all Regional Cooperative Agreements, identify gaps and facilitate agreements as need is identified.

Recommendation #5 - Support every woman to have a reproductive life plan

The workgroup grew in the number of members and in the scope of the activities and has been able to leverage the momentum around preconception/interconception care at the local, state and federal levels. The workgroup formed the L.A. County Preconception Health Collaborative, a partnership of LA Best Babies Network, the L.A. County Public Health Department (LACPHD), the March of Dimes, the California Family Health Council (CFHC), and the Public Health Foundation Enterprises Women, Infants, and Children (PHFE-WIC) Program. The workgroup is very active in promoting pre/interconception care and financing at both the state and federal levels, participating on the Preconception Care Council for California and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) workgroup for preconception care. In addition, to further enhance the capacity of providers and promote healthy pregnancies for "at-risk" women, First 5 LA's Healthy Births Initiative was expanded to fund three new BBCs. The BBCs provided coordinated interconception and perinatal care to women at highest risk for adverse pregnancy and birth outcomes. The workgroup's activities to date have included:

- Actively promoting pre/interconception care and financing at both the state and federal levels by participating on the Preconception Care Council for California and the CDC workgroup for preconception care, including working to amend and support AB741 on interpregnancy care.
- First 5 LA expanding the Healthy Births Initiative to include three additional BBCs. The new BBCs, like the existing one, will provide intensive case management and provider support to help empower women to prepare and plan for their pregnancies.
- Data Briefs - The first of several data briefs was presented at the Second National Summit on Preconception Health and Health Care. *Healthy Women in Los Angeles*

County: Reaching to Optimal Health in the Reproductive Years evaluates measures of health care, maternal health and the reproductive history women of childbearing age, (women who recently had a baby and women who experienced a fetal or infant loss in L.A. County).

- Approximately 100 healthcare providers, health educators, and others completed training on the L.A. County Public Health Speakers' Bureau on Preconception Health. *The ABCDE's to Envisioning a Healthy Future* discusses preconception health issues, prevention strategies and resources, and serves as a resource for community-based education.
- Curriculum for Family Planning Clinics – California Family Health Council (CHFC) Title X family planning clinics, funded by the March of Dimes, assessed the level of preconception and interconception care being practiced and will use the information to develop a curriculum for integrating preconception and interconception care into family planning clinics.
- WIC Offers Wellness (WOW) Program, funded by the March of Dimes, provides care coordination services to low-income mothers who recently delivered a preterm or low birthweight baby at PHFE-WIC's Avenue 43 WIC Center. WOW is collecting data for its program evaluation in the second year of the project.
- The March of Dimes "I Want my 9 Months" campaign posters and materials are available to all agencies and focus on the steps a woman should take and the questions she should ask her healthcare provider before she becomes pregnant.
- A reproductive life plan toolkit being developed by LA Best Babies Network for providers to use as an assessment tool during the preconception period.
- LA Best Babies Network developed and released the "How Healthy Are You?" checklist brochure as a preconception care assessment tool for women.
- Employer Based Component – the Network developed and disseminated a Pregnancy and Family Friendly Workplace Policies Brief to more than 3,000 L.A. Chamber of Commerce members.
- Members of the L.A. County Preconception Health Collaborative presented their work at the Second National Summit on Preconception Health and Health Care in October 2007. In April 2008, they hosted a site visit for CityMatCH, the CDC, and for leaders from the organizations represented in the L.A. County collaborative. CityMatCH and the CDC held a final all-collaborative meeting in June 2008 to help plan the future work and sustainability of the three collaborative teams.

If you are interested in joining or learning more about any of the workgroups, please contact Tonya Gorham, MSW, policy coordinator at LA Best Babies Network at (213) 250-7273, ext. 121 or tgorham@labestbabies.org