



Council on Healthy Mothers and Babies

Newsletter

Summer/Fall 2008

COHMAB FORUM HIGHLIGHTS NEED FOR PRENATAL CARE IN FRANKLIN COUNTY

Over 100 health care professionals including nurses, social workers, administrators, and local government officials participated in the *Building Prenatal Care Capacity: A Community Forum* on May 30. The Council on Healthy Mothers and Babies with the Columbus Public Health *Caring for 2* program hosted the event at the Gateway Health and Wellness Center. The purpose of the event was to discuss studies detailing a trend that prenatal care capacity for low-income women in Franklin County has decreased over the past five years, a 30 percent decline since 2003.

“There are a number of factors that lead to this decline,” said COHMAB Board President Wanda Dillard. “But the fact remains that without access to adequate prenatal care, birth outcomes in Franklin County will not improve. We need leaders at the state and local level to take action to ensure continued funding for critical women’s health services.”

Other highlights from the report:

- * In 2006, only 70% of pregnant women in Franklin County sought health care in their first trimester.
- * The leading reason women do not access prenatal care is no health insurance or money.
- * Decreased capacity means longer wait times; the average wait time for a prenatal care appointment is 16 days. The national goal is 5 days.
- * Capacity building is made more challenging by resident work requirements, growing number of women with language and cultural differences, and overarching medical liability concerns for OB/GYNs.

For additional information on the Prenatal Care Capacity Report, contact Monica Juenger, COHMAB Projects Manager, 614.586.1914 or it is also available on www.healthymothersandbabies.org.



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Healthy
Babies Begin
with Healthy
Mothers

To submit information for the next newsletter or to be added to the Council distribution list, please contact Monica Juenger, Projects Manager at: 510 E. Mound Street, Suite 300, Columbus, OH 43215, phone (614) 586-1914, fax (614) 227-9868 or email cohmag03@yahoo.com. Support/funded in part by Columbus Public Health-Caring for 2 Project H49MC0028 US Department of Health and Human Services Administration, Maternal and Child Health Bureau (Title V, SSA).



Pregnancy Care Connection Update

... *Connecting Women to Prenatal Care*

Since Pregnancy Care Connection (PCC) opened its lines August 25, 2003, PCC has been successful in providing a centralized system for scheduling initial prenatal care appointments for uninsured or underinsured pregnant women in Franklin County. **As of April 2008, PCC has helped over 10,000 women obtain prenatal care.**

PCC is pleased to announce that St. Ann’s Family Practice has joined the program by providing prenatal care appointments. This brings the total number of participating clinics to 18—thanks to all of our partners who without your help this could not be possible.

If you would like more information about PCC or to obtain PCC informational materials, such as brochures (English or Spanish), flyers, posters (English, Spanish, or Somali) or business cards, please contact Pregnancy Care Connection at 614.227.9866.

	New Patients scheduled	Number of appts. scheduled	Spanish speaking	Somali speaking	Other language	# of Minors	Patients who showed	Patients who did not show	Uninsured patients
April	177	234	18	7	8	26	193	80	95
May	192	227	20	10	5	23	152	42	93
June	147	177	18	2	5	11	147	55	75

PCC Public OB Clinical Partners

- | | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| Columbus Public Health | Northeast Health Center | Hilltop Health Center |
| East Central Health Center | Grant Community Clinic | John Maloney Health Center |
| Mount Carmel St. Ann’s | Mount Carmel West | OhioHealth Wellness on Wheels |
| OSU East/Rardin Family Practice | OSU Medical Center | Mount Carmel St. Ann’s Family Practice |
| Riverside Methodist Hospital | St. Stephen’s Health Center | Doctors Hospital |

Updates & News

Safe Sleep Program Successful

This past April, the Franklin County Infant Safe Sleep and SIDS Risk Reduction Task Force held a community event—*Safe Sleep for Babies: A Community Awareness Program*.

Thanks to funding from CJ Foundation for SIDS, it was the Task



Force's first step in spreading the word about preventing infant sleep related deaths to the overall community. Nearly 100 nurses, social workers, outreach workers, daycare and childcare providers concerned with safe sleep attended.

The purpose of the program was to educate the community about safe sleep environments and decrease the risk of preventable deaths. In 2004, SIDS was the leading cause for 11 percent of all deaths reviewed by the Franklin County Child Fatality Review Board.

The Columbus Dispatch recently highlighted the deaths of four infants who unexpectedly died while sharing a bed with their parents. While these deaths are tragic, it only reiterates the importance of the continued work of the Franklin County Infant Safe Sleep and SIDS Risk Reduction Task Force in its effort to promote infant safe-sleep messages.

For more information, please contact Karen Gray, 614.645.2134 or kareng@columbus.gov.

Improving Health Services in a Diverse Community Friday, November 7, 2008

In our increasingly diverse environment, are we properly prepared to provide patient-centered health services? Come hear what consumers are saying about the services they are receiving and learn effective strategies for ensuring happy and healthy patients.

**For more information, contact Monica Juenger
cohmag03@yahoo.com or 614.586.1914**

Sponsored by Caring for 2 and COHMAB.

Wait Time Fluctuates in 2008

The Council on Healthy Mothers and Babies, which operates PCC, conducts quarterly wait time studies by directly calling clinics for their next available intake appointment and comparing it with that of PCC. The goal wait time for PCC is 7 days.

The clinics called in this study include all of the PCC partners plus Mount Carmel East OB/GYN, which is not a PCC provider. This data is based on calls that took place in January, April and August 2008.

The highest wait time occurred in January 2008, where scheduling appointments directly with a provider averaged 19 days; however 2 clinics were not accepting new patients and four referred directly to PCC. Scheduling through PCC, the wait time for an appointment was 24 days, with PCC not scheduling for one provider.

(cont. from pg 3)

Springtime proved a decrease in the wait time for both providers and PCC. The average wait time in April 2008 for an appointment scheduled directly with a provider dropped to 16 days, though two providers were not accepting new patients at this time and four referred directly to PCC. Scheduling through PCC, the average decreased to 18 days for an appointment, with one provider not scheduling through PCC.

The study was most recently conducted in August. The average wait time for providers increased again to 19 days; one clinic was not accepting new patients, and four referred directly to PCC. During this same time, the PCC wait time remained the same at 18 days, with PCC not scheduling for one provider.



One thing that occurred in the healthcare environment from April to August is the change in Medicaid managed care providers for some hospitals. How this change in Medicaid managed care will affect the wait time for appointments in the long run has yet to be determined, but we will continue to monitor this issue.

For more information about prenatal care capacity in Franklin County, please visit the COHMAB website, www.healthymothersandbabies.org.

COHMAB Welcomes PCC Intake Specialist

The Council on Healthy Mothers and Babies is pleased to welcome **Lisette Merced** as the new **Pregnancy Care Connection Intake Specialist**. Lisette is responsible for the daily operations of Pregnancy Care Connection (PCC), scheduling appointments for prenatal care, maintaining good relationships with the PCC partners and participating in community events promoting PCC.

“I am excited to be a part of such a worthwhile cause and growing organization,” said Lisette. “Being a new mother myself, I know how important prenatal care is, and I hope I am able to convey this message to the women we serve.”

Lisette previously worked at Huckleberry House as a Crisis Intervention Specialist and Youth Outreach Specialist. She is a graduate of Capital University where she earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Criminology.

Welcome!

COHMAB

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- ◆ Family Planning Mtg.—Oct. 10
- ◆ Candidates' Forum on Children —Oct. 17
- ◆ Preconception Health—Oct. 23
- ◆ Public Awareness—Oct. 28
- ◆ Improving Health Services in a Diverse Community Conference—Nov. 7

For further information about the above activities, please contact Monica Juenger at 614.586.1914 or cohmag03@yahoo.com

Infant Mortality Awareness



The Infant Mortality Rate, the rate at which babies die before their first birthday, is considered the best way to measure the health of a community. It reflects the overall health, education, poverty level and social system of a community.

There are many important factors in infant health, including the health of the mother before becoming pregnant, which are essential for improving birth outcomes. It is also known that assuring safe sleep environments and reducing the risk of SIDS are critical in decreasing the number of infant deaths.

The Franklin County Infant Mortality Rate is 9 deaths per 1000 live births; it has not been this high since 1999. Broken down even further, African-American families experience an infant death 2.5 times the rate than white families. The national goal is to reduce the overall rate to 4.5 deaths per 1000 live births.

The leading causes of death for babies in Franklin County are due to birth defects, premature birth and low birth weight, unsafe sleep environments, and maternal complications with pregnancy.

There are several things that a community can do to be proactive to improve infant health:

- * Encourage a healthy lifestyle for women before getting pregnant including folic acid intake to prevent birth defects such as spina bifida—400micrograms daily is the recommended dosage;
- * Support women to get early and regular prenatal care;
- * Promote smoking cessation and smoke-free homes;
- * Ensure a safe sleep environment—put babies to sleep on their backs, alone in a crib. No pillows, toys, bumper pads, or blankets; and
- * Make sure car seats for infants are installed correctly.

The death of a baby is a profound tragedy for families, but more, a public health crisis for the community. Please take a moment to share this information with family members, friends and colleagues.

For more information, contact *Caring for 2*, a Healthy Start Project dedicated to meeting the needs of pregnant women in areas with the highest risk for infant mortality, 614.645.7068. You can also contact the Council on Healthy Mothers and Babies, 614.586.1914 or www.healthymothersandbabies.org.



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