



# The Council on Healthy Mothers and Babies Newsletter

February 2006

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## HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!!

### Update from The Council

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During the Summer of 2005, the Council on Healthy Mothers and Babies and its program Pregnancy Care Connection, a centralized scheduling phone system for initial OB appointments, went through several staff changes.

Victoria Nunes, our wonderful new Intake Specialist for Pregnancy Care Connection (PCC), was welcomed to the organization in July 2005. Victoria is bi-lingual in Spanish, which helps Pregnancy Care Connection reach many more women in the community, since approximately 16% of PCC callers are Spanish-speaking women. We thank Victoria for all of her great work!

The Council On Healthy Mothers and Babies (COHMAB) expanded its staff in August 2005. Alexis Forest was hired as the new Projects Manager.



**Meet the new staff. From left to right, Victoria Nunes and Alexis Forest.**

Alexis' job is to provide supervision of Pregnancy Care Connection, as well as oversee the many projects and committees of the Council, such as the SIDS Committee, the Prenatal Care Capacity Roundtables, and the Alcohol and Other Drug Collaborative. We welcome Alexis to our team.

#### CONTACT US!

This newsletter is sent to all members of the Council to enhance communication among members. All members are encouraged to take advantage of this communication tool and share with others.

To submit information for the next newsletter, receive additional information or to be added to the Council membership, please contact Alexis Forest, Projects Manager at:

510 E. Mound Street, Suite 300, Columbus, OH 43215, phone (614) 586-1914, fax (614) 227-9868, or email aforest1313@yahoo.com

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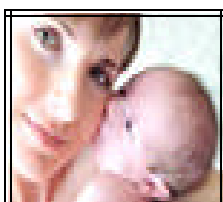
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### Healthy Babies Begin With Healthy Moms

## Pregnancy Care Connection Update

... Connecting Women to Care

The mission of Pregnancy Care Connection is **to provide access to prenatal care to the pregnant women in need in Franklin County by providing an easily accessible hotline that will schedule the initial OB appointment with an available system provider.** The long-term outcome for Pregnancy Care Connection (PCC) is to **reduce infant mortality to 4.5 deaths per 1,000 live births by 2010.**



### Current PCC Statistics

PCC opened it's lines August 25, 2003. As of January 6, 2006, PCC has scheduled initial OB appointments for 4,930 uninsured or underinsured pregnant women of Franklin County.

PCC will schedule initial OB appointments for uninsured or underinsured pregnant women of Franklin County with one of our sixteen (16) contracted public OB providers: *Columbus Health Department North, East, and West (West re-opened it's doors in July 2005), Columbus Northeast Health Center, Doctor's Hospital, East Central Health Center, Grant Medical Center, John Maloney Southside Health Center, Mount Carmel St. Ann's, Mount Carmel West, OhioHealth Wellness on Wheels, OSU East Family Practice, OSU Medical Center, OSU Rardin Family Practice, Riverside Methodist Hospital, and St. Stephen's Health Center.*

The Council on Healthy Mothers and Babies would like to sincerely thank the March of Dimes and the Columbus Health Department-Caring for 2 Program and for their continued financial support and assistance with Pregnancy Care Connection.

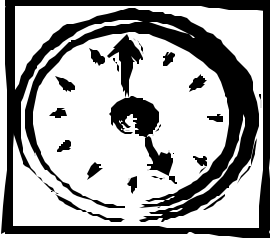
| <b>PCC Statistics 1/6/06</b>        | <b>#</b>    | <b>%</b>     |
|-------------------------------------|-------------|--------------|
| <b>Number of Patients Scheduled</b> | <b>4620</b> |              |
| <b>Appointments Scheduled</b>       | <b>4930</b> |              |
| <b>Cancelled Appointments</b>       | <b>342</b>  |              |
| <b>Rescheduled Appointments</b>     | <b>281</b>  |              |
| <b>Help Me Grow Referrals</b>       | <b>1055</b> | <b>22.8%</b> |
| <b>Neighborhood Nest Referrals</b>  | <b>311</b>  | <b>6.7%</b>  |
| <b>Spanish-Speaking Patients</b>    | <b>734</b>  | <b>15.9%</b> |
| <b>Somali-Speaking Patients</b>     | <b>147</b>  | <b>3.2%</b>  |
| <b>Other Language Speakers</b>      | <b>89</b>   | <b>1.9%</b>  |
| <b>Minors</b>                       | <b>492</b>  | <b>10.6%</b> |
| <b>Shows as of 12/31/05</b>         | <b>2990</b> | <b>71.8%</b> |
| <b>No Shows as of 12/31/05</b>      | <b>1177</b> | <b>28.2%</b> |
| <b>Uninsured Patients</b>           | <b>2826</b> | <b>61.2%</b> |
| <b>CareSource Patients</b>          | <b>813</b>  | <b>17.6%</b> |
| <b>Medicaid Patients</b>            | <b>789</b>  | <b>17.1%</b> |
| <b>Healthy Start Patients</b>       | <b>214</b>  | <b>4.6%</b>  |
| <b>Medicare Patients</b>            | <b>20</b>   | <b>0.4%</b>  |

**To schedule an initial OB appointment or to contact Pregnancy Care Connection, please call**

**(614) 227-9866**

**Monday—Friday**

**8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.**



## Waiting Time Study of Initial Prenatal Care Appointments

The Council on Healthy Mothers and Babies (COHMAB) recently conducted two Wait Time Studies: one in October 2005 and one in November 2005. The purpose of the Wait Time Study is to determine the average wait time a pregnant women, usually uninsured, would have to wait for her initial OB appointment. In addition, the Wait Time Study allows for the assessment of customer service. The COHMAB and PCC strive to assure that the average wait time for a first prenatal care appointment in Franklin County's public OB clinics is no more than 14 days.

The scenario for the October 2005 Wait Time Study was a English-speaking, uninsured, twenty-eight year old, nine week pregnant woman. The results of this Wait Time Study showed that the current average wait time is 11 days, which is 5 day decrease from the June 2005 Wait Time Study.

The average wait time for hospital outpatient OB clinics for the October 2005 study was 16 days, with a range from 7 days—28 days. Out of the 7 available hospital outpatient OB providers, all but 1 was able to schedule an appointment. This is an increase from June 2005 study in which only 4 hospital outpatient OB clinics were scheduling appointments.

The average wait time for neighborhood health centers (including the three Columbus Health Department locations) was 9 days, with a range of 1 day—20 days. For the October 2005 study, all neighborhood health centers were able to make an appointment, compared to the June 2005 study where only 7 centers were able to schedule an appointment.

In November 2005, COHMAB conducted two wait time studies simultaneously: one for a Spanish-speaking patient and one for an English-speaking patient.

Except for the difference in language, the scenario for the wait time studies were identical: an uninsured, twenty-four year old, 11 week pregnant woman. The results of this Wait Time Study found that the current average wait time for an English-speaking patient is 16 days, as compared to 12 days for a Spanish-speaking patient.

The average wait time for hospital outpatient OB clinics for an English-speaking patient was 19 days, with a range from 6 days—32 days. For a Spanish-speaking patient, the average wait time for hospital outpatient OB clinics was 17 days, with a range of 1 day—32 days. In both situations, only 5 out of 7 possible hospital outpatient OB clinics were scheduling appointments. The other 2 clinics were not scheduling appointments because they were full.

The average wait time for neighborhood health centers (including the three Columbus Health Department locations) for an English-speaking patient was 15 days, with a range of 1 day—46 days. For a Spanish-speaking patient, the average wait time for the neighborhood health centers was 12 days, with a range of 3 days—22 days. Only 1 neighborhood health center was not scheduling appointments because they currently refer all new OB patients to PCC.

**For more information regarding the Wait Time Study or to receive a copy of the Wait Time Study, please contact Alexis Forest at 586-1914 or [aforest1313@yahoo.com](mailto:aforest1313@yahoo.com).**



### **KEEP YOUR EARS OPEN!!!**

The Pregnancy Care Connection (PCC) has a PSA that will be airing in English on all Clear Channel radio stations, such as 92.3, 93.3, 97.9, 105.7, 610 AM, and 1230 AM. There will also be a Spanish PSA airing on 103.1, Columbus' Spanish radio station.

## Committee Updates



### SIDS CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE

In November 2005, the Council on Healthy Mothers and Babies (COHMAB) reconvened the SIDS Campaign Committee in order to continue working on a campaign to educate our community about the

risks association with Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS).

The past efforts of this committee include: gathering data on fetal/infant deaths in Franklin County by utilizing the Perinatal Periods of Risk (PPOR) methodology; creating a SIDS brochure targeting grandparents, especially African American grandparents; and then distributing these brochures throughout the community.

Currently, the SIDS Campaign Committee is working on gathering current data on the prevalence of SIDS not only in Franklin County, but also in other Ohio counties. The committee is also looking into current programs focused on reducing SIDS. In addition, the SIDS Campaign Committee is reviewing the current Child Fatality Review Annual Report in order to determine the most prevalent causes of infant deaths.

The committee is currently meeting once a month, with the next meeting scheduled for **March 24th** from **9:00 - 11:00 a.m.** at the Columbus Health Department.

To get involved in this very dedicated and enthusiastic SIDS Campaign Committee, please contact Alexis Forest at 586-1914 or aforest1313@yahoo.com.

### ALCOHOL & OTHER DRUG COLLABORATIVE

The Columbus Health Department Caring for 2, in partnership with the Council on Healthy Mothers and Babies (COHMAB) reconvened the AOD Collaborative in December 2005 in order to continue the work of decreasing maternal AOD use in Franklin County. This collaborative was originally formed in 2003 and, at that time, worked with Public Health students from OSU to conduct an assessment of maternal AOD use and outcomes in Franklin County. This assessment included a literature search to assess the extent of AOD use among pregnant women, an assessment of AOD

screening protocols for prenatal providers, an assessment of AOD screening protocols for hospital delivery units, an assessment of the roles and responsibilities of Franklin County Children's Services as they relate to AOD using pregnant women, and an identification and description of the treatment options and services for AOD exposed children.

In order to educate the community and healthcare providers about the prevalence of maternal AOD use and the number of addicted babies, the collaborative is currently working on collecting information, such as current AOD use data, the signs and symptoms of AOD use, what causes maternal AOD use, treatment options and their criteria, and information regarding referrals and other resolutions to this issue. In addition, the AOD Collaborative group is researching the possibility of conducting testing on every baby born in Franklin County in order to determine the true extent of this problem.

The group is currently meeting once a month and the next meeting is scheduled for **March 23rd** from **2:00—4:00 p.m.** at the Columbus Health Department.

For more information or to become involved in this group, please contact Alexis Forest at 586-1914 or aforest1313@yahoo.com.

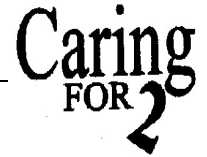
### PNC ROUNDTABLES

The Council on Healthy Mothers and Babies (COHMAB) held it's last Prenatal Care Capacity Roundtable in October 2005. The purpose of the PNC Roundtables is to identify options available to increase the prenatal care capacity in Franklin County. At the October 2005 Roundtable, four subgroups were formed to work on issues such as creating a family planning waiver, increasing public awareness, working on improving immigrant services, and increasing funding for maternal and child health, as well as increasing funding for interpreters. These four subcommittees have been working independently on their goals and will come back together at the next large Roundtable scheduled for **March 10, 2006**. More information will be forthcoming and is open to all.

For more information or to join a Roundtable subgroup, contact Alexis Forest at 586-1914 or aforest1313@yahoo.com.



## Community Highlight



In 1999, the Columbus Health Department (CHD) in partnership with the Council on Healthy Mothers and Babies and others, developed a Federal Healthy Start planning proposal. The project, Caring for 2 (CF2), convened a Project Area Consortium (now referred to as the Local Area Consortium) to begin looking at the infrastructure and perinatal capacity issues. As a result of the findings in 2000, CF2 was awarded the Federal Healthy Start funds for the Initiative to Eliminate Racial Disparities in Infant Mortality. Funding for this grant continued through May 2004. The project was approved but not funded for 2004- but a new proposal was submitted and was approved and funded in June, 2005.

The purpose of the CF2 project is to eliminate disparities in perinatal health. Caring For 2 will focus efforts on African American women living in three Columbus neighborhoods- South Linden, Near East and Near South where the infant mortality rate is extremely high. The project has two major responsibilities, first, to provide care coordination/ case management services and second, to address health system issues affecting pregnant and parenting women and their infants.

The staff of Caring For 2 consist of a Project Director, Program Supervisor; a Case Management that includes 2 Social Workers contracted from Neighborhood House and Southside Settlement House, 2 Public Health Nurses and 3 Community Care Coordinators.

The Case Management Team provides free in-home family centered services to pregnant women and their infants through:

- health education and information addressing pregnancy, well women care and infant care;
- assuring access to prenatal, family planning and pediatric care;
- risk reduction;
- child development and parenting skills.

The Project Community Consortium is developed to involve community residents, program participants, health and social services and policy makers to work together to identify and address barriers to prenatal and postnatal care. This committee will also look at increasing access to and utilization of prenatal, family planning and pediatric health care and other health and social service needs. In addition, CF2 is working on addressing broader health system issues. Caring for 2 is contracting with the Council on Healthy Mothers and Babies to help address mutual interests that include increasing access to prenatal care, eliminating alcohol and drug use and exposure and addressing perinatal depression.

Caring For 2 begin enrolling clients in November 2005. So far we have 41 clients referred with 29 enrollments. For more information, please contact Caring for 2 Project Director Susie Cook at [sdcook@columbus.gov](mailto:sdcook@columbus.gov) or 645-6425.

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

#### March

- March 10th—Prenatal Care Capacity Roundtable, 7:30-10a, OSU East Wallace Auditorium
- March 23rd—AOD Collaborative Meeting, 2-4p, Columbus Health Department, Room 119 E
- March 24th—SIDS Committee Meeting, 9-11a, Columbus Health Department, Room 119 D

#### April

- April 21st—SIDS Committee Meeting, 9-11a, Columbus Health Department, Room 119 D
- April 28th—Father: The Often Forgotten Parent Conference, 8:30a—3:30p, Radisson Hotel, Worthington

#### May

- May 19th—SIDS Committee Meeting, 9-11a, Columbus Health Department, Room 119 D