



Council on Healthy Mothers and Babies

Newsletter

Spring 2010

Commissioners Award \$7 Million to Nationwide Children's Collaborative to Fight Premature Births

Franklin County Commissioners announced in December their intention to provide \$7 million over 5 years to fund clinical research and community outreach efforts to prevent premature births. Data shows that premature birth is consistently one of the leading causes of death for infants in Franklin County.

The funding will support the community prevention initiative known as Ohio Better Birth Outcomes (OBBO), a collaborative effort between Nationwide Children's Hospital, The Ohio State University Medical Center, OhioHealth, and Mount Carmel Health, along with local government agencies, and community groups, including the Council on Healthy Mothers and Babies.

Franklin County's preterm birth rate of 13 percent is almost double the U.S. public health goal of 6.9 percent and higher than the state overall, costing businesses, government and families emotionally and financially. In high risk populations in Franklin County, the preterm birth rate is as high as 20 percent.

OBBO is focused on specific interventions for high risk pregnant women and new mothers that have strong empirical data suggesting they may reduce preterm morbidity and mortality. Early results include doubling the number of women receiving 17P, a hormone therapy that can reduce recurrent preterm births in women with a history of spontaneous preterm delivery. Nurse-Family Partnership, another component of OBBO, has reduced preterm birth rates among participants by 8.4 percent compared to a control group. The financial impact of this is substantial, given that the costs of an infant admitted to neonatal intensive care units in Franklin County ranges from an average \$66,000 up to more than \$2 million.

A portion of the funding from the Board of Commissioners will support the work of OBBO with \$500,000 in 2010 and a total of up to \$3 million over five years. This will enable OBBO to reach 1,100 high risk pregnant women and new mothers in Franklin County.



Inside This Issue / Page

<i>Pregnancy Care Connection</i>	2
<i>Updates & News</i>	3
<i>Calendar of Events</i>	4
<i>Community Highlight</i>	5

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 cohlab03@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 successfully provided a centralized system for scheduling initial prenatal care appointments for uninsured or underinsured pregnant women in Franklin County. To date, PCC has helped over 14,000 women obtain prenatal care services.

If you would like more information about PCC or to obtain PCC informational materials, please contact Pregnancy Care Connection at 614.227.9866.

PCC Intake Specialist, Mariel Melendez, will be presenting an abstract on the Pregnancy Care Connection program at the Project L/Earn 20th Anniversary Conference and Reunion at Rutgers University. Project L/Earn identifies students from economically disadvantaged backgrounds and those from racial and ethnic minority groups, who have an interest in health related social science fields and provides them with training, experience and mentoring to develop strong candidates for graduate programs.

2009 Fourth Quarter Data

	New Patients scheduled	Number of appts. scheduled	Patients who showed	Patients who did not show	18 and under	Spanish speaking	Somali speaking	Other language	Uninsured patients
Oct	288	321	184	61	30	40	4	13	146
Nov	321	305	237	85	29	26	3	14	110
Dec	173	211	197	63	11	20	5	5	80

PCC Public OB Clinical Partners

Columbus Public Health	Northeast Health Center	Westside 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 Family Practice	OSU Medical Center	Mount Carmel St. Ann's Family Practice
Riverside Methodist Hospital	St. Stephen's Health Center	Doctors Hospital
OSU Rardin Family Practice	Whitehall Family Health	

Updates & News



Text 4 Baby Information for Pregnant Women

Text4baby is a free mobile information service designed to promote maternal and child health. An educational program of the National Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies Coalition (HMHB), text4baby provides pregnant women and new moms with information they need to take care of their health and give their babies the best possible start in life. Women who sign up for the service by texting BABY (or BEBE for Spanish) to 511411 will receive free SMS text messages each week, timed to their due date or baby's date of birth.

Text4baby is made possible through a broad, public-private partnership that includes government, corporations, academic institutions, professional associations, tribal agencies and non-profit organizations. Founding partners include HMHB, Voxiva, CTIA - The Wireless Foundation and WPP. Johnson & Johnson is the founding sponsor, and premier sponsors include WellPoint, Pfizer and CareFirst BlueCross BlueShield. U.S. government partners include the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy, the Department of Health and Human Services and the Department of Defense Military Health System.

The mobile health platform is provided by Voxiva and free messaging services are generously provided by participating wireless service providers. Implementation partners include BabyCenter, Danya International, Syniverse Technologies, Keynote Systems and The George Washington University. MTV Networks is a media sponsor.

For more information, please visit www.text4baby.org.

Tomorrow's Leaders and Today's Mothers: Healthy Teens, Healthy Pregnancies, Healthy Futures

**Friday, April 16, 2010
Quest Business & Conference Centers
Columbus, Ohio**

For the first time in ten years, the teen pregnancy rate rose in 2006. Learn strategies and innovative programs to promote healthy teen lifestyles and support teen parents.

\$40 registration fee includes breakfast, lunch and CE's. For details and registration, contact Monica Juenger, 614.586.1914 or cohmag03@yahoo.com.

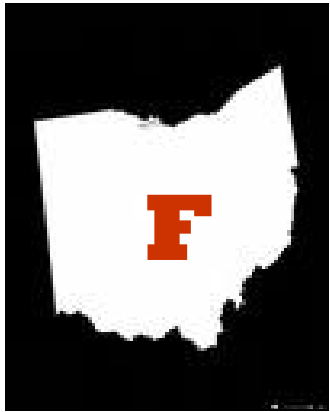
OSU Prematurity Program Awarded Grant

The March of Dimes has awarded a grant to The Ohio State University Medical Center's Prematurity Program to fund Pre-pregnancy Counseling for women with a history of prior spontaneous preterm birth. This is in hopes of getting their bodies ready BEFORE becoming pregnant again.

Women will see a Maternal-Fetal Medicine Specialist, a specialty nurse, a social worker, dietician and a certified tobacco treatment specialist if indicated. Safe spacing of pregnancies will also be discussed.

To qualify for this program, women must have had at least one preterm baby and live in Franklin County. Transportation and incentives are offered.

For more information, please contact Hetty Walker, RNC INP, Nurse Coordinator of the OSUMC Prematurity Program, 614-293-8949.



March of Dimes Gives Ohio an “F” in Premature Birth

In November, the March of Dimes released the 2009 Premature Birth Report Card. In Ohio, the percentage of premature births went from 13 percent to 13.2 percent. This means Ohio moved in the wrong direction and unfortunately had enough of an impact to lower the grade from “D” to “F.” The grades are calculated by the difference between the state prematurity rate from the national Healthy People 2010 goal of 7.6 percent.

There is, however, also some good news: smoking rates in Ohio have decreased significantly for women of child bearing age. Smoking is harmful to both mother and unborn baby as it is associated with a number of pregnancy complications such as placental problems.

The national grade was a “D” with an average preterm birth rate of 12.7 percent. No state received an “A.” Vermont received the only “B” with 9.2 percent and 19 other states (including D.C. and Puerto Rico) received an “F” with Puerto Rico having the highest preterm birth rate of 19.2 percent.



COHMAB Welcomes New Intake Specialist

The Council on Healthy Mothers and Babies is pleased to welcome **Mariel Melendez** as the new **Pregnancy Care Connection Intake Specialist**. Mariel 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 worth while cause and growing organization,” said Mariel. “I am pleased to be able to help pregnant women access important healthcare services.”

Mariel previously provided interpretation services for Access 2 Interpreters, LLC. She is a graduate of University of Puerto Rico at Rio Piedras Campus, with a Bachelor of Arts deegreed in Anthropology.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- ◆ Tomorrow’s Leaders and Today’s Mothers 4/16
- ◆ Neighborhood Nest Baby Shower 4/17
- ◆ Perinatal Mood Disorders Training 4/28

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



NIH-Sponsored Study of Women Carrying a Baby with Spina Bifida

The Management of Myelomeningocele Study (MOMS), a randomized, controlled clinical trial, continues to enroll pregnant women. Health care professionals can play an important role by helping to identify and refer candidates for this study funded by the *Eunice Kennedy Shriver* National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD). The trial is designed to compare the safety and efficacy of prenatal versus postnatal closure of myelomeningocele. Approximately 160 women have been enrolled with another 40 needed. For the duration of the study, prenatal surgery for spina bifida is not available outside of the trial. Participating MOMS Centers are: The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, Vanderbilt University Medical Center in Nashville, and the University of California at San Francisco. The George Washington University Biostatistics Center serves as the Coordinating Center and performs the centralized screening.

Patients can begin the evaluation process as soon as the diagnosis is made. For the initial screening process, women or their health care providers should contact Ms. Jessica Ratay. Ms. Ratay, a genetic counselor, can explain the trial at length and/or provide information on spina bifida. If a patient remains interested in participating and consents to be screened, her medical records will be reviewed for inclusion and exclusion criteria. Healthcare providers are also encouraged to contact Ms. Ratay for information about this fetal condition and the trial.

Qualifying participants are referred to a MOMS Center for further screening where they are evaluated for eligibility and decide if they wish to enroll. If so, they are randomly assigned to either the prenatal or postnatal surgery group of the trial.

Participants in the prenatal group undergo surgery to repair the myelomeningocele between the 19th and 25th week of pregnancy and remain at the MOMS Center until cesarean delivery at 37 weeks. Those assigned to postnatal surgery go home after randomization and return to the MOMS Center at 37 weeks for cesarean delivery and myelomeningocele repair. Follow-up evaluations are performed at the center on all infants at 12 and 30 months of age. All travel, food and lodging costs are covered by the research study.

To refer a patient or for information: Contact the Study Coordinator, Jessica Ratay, MS, CGC at: 1-866-ASK MOMS (1-866-275-6667), E-mail: MOMS@bsc.gwu.edu

Website: www.spinabifidamoms.com



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