

MCAH Highlights

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Solano County Public Health Division

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The Future of Prenatal Care



In June, Solano County's Prenatal Care Access Committee met to consider the future of prenatal care in Solano County. The group, which is a collaborative made up of county staff, medical providers, social service agencies, and others, first reviewed the accomplishments of the last few years. These included a 7% increase in rates of early prenatal care since 2006, from 71.3% to 76.4%, and an improvement in the time frame in which pregnancy-related Medi-Cal applications are processed.

The committee then considered their goals for the next few years. The current national target for women to enter prenatal care by the first trimester of pregnancy is 77.9%, as set by Healthy People 2020. Solano County, whose rate was 77% in 2010, is currently close to that rate. The group agreed to a goal to improve by 10%, heading for 85% of women entering prenatal care in the first trimester of pregnancy. Early entry into prenatal care is one way to ensure that women have healthy pregnancies.

What will it take to improve prenatal care in Solano County in the future? The Prenatal Care Access Committee plans to continue education campaigns to teach women about the importance of early care. In addition, information gleaned from focus groups is being used to better understand how to target women at particular risk. The group is using the latest in geo-mapping technology to learn more about where pregnant women and services, such as hospitals and prenatal clinics, are located. Medi-Cal processing times are monitored, and data are used to track progress toward goals. For a complete report, go to the Solano County website at: <http://admin.solanocounty.com/depts/ph/mch/overview.asp>.

If you would like to participate in the Prenatal Care Access Committee, contact Nancy Calvo at (707) 783-8610.

"We're working for the day when every woman will have access to high quality, early prenatal care to give her baby the best start." ~ Nancy Calvo

October Is SIDS Awareness Month

October is SIDS Awareness Month and the Maternal, Child and Adolescent Health Bureau is reminding providers to make sure their patients are educated about the risk factors for Sudden Infant Death Syndrome. Free safe sleep materials can be ordered from the National Institutes of Health. The MCAH Bureau also has a brochure available entitled, "Safe Sleep For My Baby". A SIDS awareness display will be at the Fairfield Library in October, and outreach workers will be sharing the message with the community. If you would like more information about safe sleep materials, contact Susan Whalen at (707) 784-8397.

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Nurse-Family Partnership



Nurse Family Partnership (NFP) of Solano County continues to meet or exceed the national program benchmarks! Currently, they are serving 90 clients. Since implementation in March 2010, NFP Solano has enrolled 130 families, 70 healthy babies have been born, and 10 have reached their first birthday.

The NFP Community Advisory Board met quarterly during the past year. Community members and providers made presentations at each meeting and the NFP nurses shared stories and experiences from their work with participants. A presentation of Solano County's NFP Partner Survey results, and local evaluation updates were given. Three Federal Project Officers attended the July 2011 meeting and provided national home visiting news and answered questions from the Advisory Board members.

NFP in Solano County has been actively involved in the development of the Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) program. Team members from the MIECHV program visited the Solano NFP site in July and August. They learned more about implementation of the NFP model, data collection and outcomes as the MIECHV team prepares to implement the home visiting programs across the state. NFP has also been awarded \$1.37 million in expansion funds for Fiscal Year 2011-2012 and 2012-2013! These additional funds will allow us to serve more at-risk pregnant and parenting moms and their children up to age two.

BabyFirst Solano

BabyFirst Solano is continuing to support women in having healthy and drug-free pregnancies with the Go Before You Show (GBYS) campaign. Go Before You Show is an outreach



campaign designed to encourage women of childbearing years to see their doctor within the first three months of pregnancy, even if they do not have health insurance. The first three months are a critical time for growth and development for the unborn baby and seeing a doctor during this time is one of the best decisions a mom could make for her unborn baby. This fall, the GBYS campaign will be rolling out a second round of pre-show movie ads from September 29th- December 31st. In addition, a bus ad and bus shelter campaign will be rolled out at multiple sites in Solano County in September and will continue through November. The movie and bus campaigns are generously funded by the Nurse Family Partnership program of Solano County, Kaiser Permanente, NorthBay Healthcare, and First 5 Solano.

BabyFirst had 304 healthy babies born and 693 clients served in the last fiscal year, and has served over 3300 clients since the program began. BabyFirst also has a newly redesigned website at www.babyfirstsolano.com. Come check us out! If you would like GBYS materials or fax referral forms for Prenatal Care Guidance, please contact Michelle Carnahan at (707) 784-8619.

Taking the Show On The Road

The successes of Solano County MCAH programs are getting attention far and wide! Two different programs were invited to present at national conferences this fall.

Integrating Substance Abuse Screening Into Prenatal Care: A Collaborative Approach - Washington, D.C.

BabyFirst Solano's 4PsPlus Perinatal Substance Abuse Program was featured at the September 14-16 National Conference on Substance Abuse in Washington, D.C. Conference goers who work with families affected by substance use had the chance to hear how the 4PsPlus Project identifies pregnant women at risk for substance use and gives them the tools to have a healthy and substance-free pregnancy.



Unlocking the Prenatal Care Door: A Community Approach - San Francisco

Accomplishments of the Prenatal Care Access Committee were presented at the CityMatCH, San Francisco conference from Sept. 18-20. "Unlocking the Prenatal Care Door: A Community Approach" shared some of the strategies that have helped rates of early prenatal care to increase by 30% in the last five years among women receiving Medi-Cal coverage.



Safe Sleep a Focus for the Child Death Review Team

Solano County's Child Death Review team is releasing a new report highlighting the dangers of unsafe sleep environments for Solano County's children. In a review of 53 deaths of children under 18 months of age between 2002 and 2011, which were investigated by the Coroner's Office, more than three quarters involved a child sleeping in an unsafe sleep environment (something other than a crib), and more than half involved co-sleeping (a child sleeping in the same bed with someone else). When someone shares a bed with a child, it increases the likelihood of accidental suffocation.

The Child Death Review Team is committed to increasing awareness among parents and caregivers that the safest place for baby to sleep is in a separate sleep space, on a firm, infant-approved mattress without blankets, pillows or stuffed animals nearby.

Maternal, Child and Adolescent Health Bureau Expands

To provide better, streamlined service to Solano County, the Public Health Division has merged the Nursing Bureau into the Maternal, Child and Adolescent Health Bureau (MCAH). The expanded MCAH Bureau will continue to be led by Nancy Calvo, Health Services Administrator, a position she has held for the past 14 years.



The new MCAH now includes thirteen programs:

- Adolescent Family Life Program
- BabyFirst Solano
- Black Infant Health
- Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program
- Children's Medical Services—Child Health and Disability Prevention and California Children's Services
- Comprehensive Perinatal Services Program
- Fetal and Infant Mortality Review
- Health Care Program for Children in Foster Care
- Immunization Program
- Nurse-Family Partnership
- Prenatal Care Guidance
- Public Health Nursing
- Student Health Services

Medi-Cal Alcohol and Drug Screening Bill

BabyFirst Solano is one of many organizations working toward the day when all women receiving prenatal care are screened for alcohol, tobacco and other drugs. The goal is to educate women about the risks of using substances while pregnant, and offer help in quitting. This should decrease the incidence of Fetal Alcohol Syndrome and other unfavorable birth outcomes such as preterm labor, low birth weight, prematurity, congenital anomalies, stillbirths, and mental retardation.

To further this aim, California State Assembly Member Jim Beall has sponsored Assembly Bill 540, Medi-Cal Alcohol and Drug Screening and Brief Intervention Services. This bill would allow counties to receive federal matching funds for providing these services, and thereby increase the number of providers willing to offer the screenings.

Currently this bill is in the Senate Appropriations Suspense File. If you would like to help in the efforts to get this important bill passed, call your elected representatives and let them know you would like to see the bill removed from the Senate Appropriations Suspense File and enacted.

