

## **West Virginia Perinatal Partnership Work Plan 2010**

In 2010, the Partnership will collaborate to make progress toward the following goals:

1. **Establish a Statewide Perinatal System:** Find a permanent home for the Partnership within Higher Education Policy Commission – Office of the Vice Chancellor for Health Sciences; Promote hospital self-assessments based on established guidelines;
  - a. Continue work on the Maternal and Infant Transport System.
  - b. Work to design a workable One-call system for consultations and transfers;
  - c. Work to establish telecommunications connections between 12 rural hospitals and 8 primary care settings with tertiary care centers for perinatal consultation purposes.
    - i. Participate on the clinical/outcomes/goals committee
    - ii. Participate on the education/training/outcomes goals committee
    - iii. Participate on the Technology Committee/Outcomes-Goals
    - iv. Participate in developing further grant proposals for additional funds for this project.
  - d. Hospital Self Assessment Program – visit and verify level of care. Work to encourage participation of hospitals not yet engaged in this project.
2. **Identify and Address Obstetrical Provider Shortage Areas:** Promote the establishment of maternity services in rural areas; Promote the MSN with Midwifery Program at Marshall University School of Nursing. Identify and report number of practicing maternity providers in State.
3. **Promote State Policies Regarding Maternal Risk Assessment:** Member participation on the Maternal Risk Assessment Committee coordinated by the Office of Maternal Child and Family Health in WVDHHR. Work with the committee to promote use of the assessment tool among maternity providers. Work with the committee to design methods for analyzing the data obtained from the risk assessment tool for preventative purposes.
4. **Address the Lack of Oral Health Care in Pregnancy:** Support programs that work with pregnant women and families to increase awareness of the need for oral hygiene; Work to encourage insurance providers to cover oral health care during pregnancy.
5. **Identify Costly Medical Procedures Associated With Poor Birth Outcomes:** Continue work on the *Obstetrical Collaborative Quality Initiative* to reduce the high rates of elective deliveries in West Virginia; Work to gain participation of hospitals not yet engaged in this project. Work to reduce elective c-sections. Report outcomes of this project annually.
6. **Develop an Approach to Identify and Treat Drug Use During Pregnancy:** Provide CEU educational sessions on the Medical Guidelines developed by committee work during 2007-2010. Accept invitation for the Partnership to be

represented on the State Committee of Drug Misuse, coordinated by Mike O’Neal, PharmD.

7. **Promote and Support Breastfeeding:** Support the work of the West Virginia Breastfeeding Alliance. Look for additional ways to promote breastfeeding.
8. **Reduce Unplanned Pregnancy:** Work with a grant from the National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy;
  - a. Promote a Medicaid Family Planning Waiver Plan;
  - b. Promote the recommendations of the 2009 Edvantia Study to teach healthy pregnancy healthy baby information to school students;
  - c. Continue to conduct a trial program that teaches pregnant and new mothers and fathers why it is important to space pregnancies.
  - d. Develop and implement a program through the WV Community and Technical Colleges in southern WV, to encourage postponement of pregnancy among college students.
9. **Plan to Address Perinatal Disparities in the State’s Minority Population.**
10. **Reduce Tobacco Use During Pregnancy:** Work with WV Tobacco Coalition to reduce tobacco use among pregnant women and their families.
11. **Establish and Conduct Perinatal Outreach Educational Activities:** Continue to identify educational topics and presenters; Establish scheduled MEU, CEU programs in eight areas of the State. Survey maternity providers for needed educational topics. Post educational opportunities on web calendar. Measure success.
12. **Educate and Seek Support from the WV Legislature and State Government Regarding:**
  - a. Funding for a permanent home for the Perinatal Partnership within the Higher Education Policy Commission – Office of Vice Chancellor for Health Sciences.
  - b. Bringing the State’s law regarding HIV/AIDs into agreement with CDC recommendations.
  - c. Calling for the State Medicaid program to seek a Medicaid Family Planning Waiver that will provide contraceptive care to women for two years after a birth. Currently a woman is covered for only 60 days postpartum. This is an economic opportunity for West Virginia because the federal match rate is 90% to the State’s 10% match dollars for family planning services. Twenty-seven states are already saving money because they have already asked for and received a waiver. The WV Family Planning Program has estimated that this waiver could result in 830 fewer Medicaid births each year, saving \$10,720 for each birth.

- d. Providing Medicaid coverage for pregnant women up to 200% federal poverty level. This expansion of benefits would cost only about one-half of what would be saved by obtaining a Medicaid Family Planning waiver.
- e. Promote insurance coverage for dependants for contraception and for pregnancy.