About the Collaborative

An African American baby born in Beloit is almost two times more likely to die before his or her first birthday than a white infant.

The Beloit Lifecourse Initiative for Healthy Families (LIHF) Collaborative was formed in June 2010 in response to the statewide public health issue of African American infant mortality and birth disparities. The Beloit LIHF Collaborative works with coalitions in Milwaukee, Kenosha and Racine on this important statewide initiative.

Today, the Beloit LIHF Collaborative has 90 members from different community sectors. During the implementation phase, the Collaborative will recruit participants from the faith-based community, medical providers and policy-makers at the city, county and state levels. The Community Action Plan put forth by the Beloit LIHF Collaborative envisions a community where all African American families have less stress and experience healthy birth outcomes.

Key Findings

The Collaborative participated in a nine-month Community Needs Assessment, involving more than 194 community residents. The Collaborative focused on three key areas:

- Improving access to health care
- Strengthening African American families
- Addressing social and economic inequities

Ten discussion groups with 64 participants provided invaluable feedback about the assets, needs and services of the community. Participants indicated the following challenges or community deficits: lack of job opportunities, access to public transportation, low father involvement in families, access to health care (mental and dental health) and other services, education gaps and racism.

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Beloit LIHF Community Action Plan

Recommended Approaches to Improve Health Care
• Expand health care access over the lifecourse
• Increase access to quality and affordable prenatal care services delivered in a culturally appropriate manner

Recommended Approaches to Strengthen Families and Communities
• Increase father involvement
• Create a culturally competent systems navigator

Recommended Approaches to Address Inequities
• Provide employment opportunities and income support to families
• Close the education gap
• Undo racism

Priorities of the Collaborative
• Strengthening father involvement
• Promoting a culturally competent systems navigator to assist with access to services
• Undoing racism through strengthening cultural competency among service providers

Role of the Collaborative
• Build broad community buy-in and support for the Community Action Plan.
• Demonstrate strong and strategic leadership to address infant mortality.
• Advance evidence-based policy, community level systems and environmental change strategies that emerged from the Community Action Plan.
• Leverage resources and connections in the community.

What Can You Do
Be part of the movement to change the health of the community and join the collaborative! Call (818) 375-0175 for more information.