About the Collaborative

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

To ensure that African American infants survive and thrive in Racine, community residents and organizations joined forces and established the Greater Racine Lifecourse Initiative for Healthy Families (LIHF). During the first 24 months, the Racine LIHF Collaborative developed a Community Action Plan that serves as a community-driven blue print for improving birth outcomes for African American infants in Racine. The plan was created after an in-depth review of research and data, community discussions and visits to communities that are also working on this issue.

Guiding Principles

• Eliminating birth disparities in Racine cannot be done overnight. It will take time, talent, resources, community engagement and an unwavering, long-term commitment from all sectors of Greater Racine.

• Community involvement is vital to the success of the LIHF initiative. The Racine LIHF Collaborative is comprised of health care providers and caregivers, educators and service agency representatives, community leaders, concerned volunteers and business representatives.

The Racine LIHF Collaborative works with coalitions in Beloit, Kenosha and Milwaukee on this important statewide initiative.

For more information go to healthybabiesracine.org
Samantha J. Perry, Project Manager | phone: (262) 637-8377
Priorities of the Collaborative

• To coordinate and enhance services delivery systems (relationship building, father involvement, stress reduction) to support pregnant, parenting women and their family.

• To establish a neighborhood success center.

• Promote community understanding of Lifecourse issues.

• Expand, enhance and simplify systems integration and coordination among human services and health care related organizations, agencies and programs.

• Examine and develop recommendations for new or revised policies related to but not limited to: child support enforcement, case management systems, potential medical assistance waivers to perform infant mortality prevention work, alternatives to traditional models of prenatal care, and barriers to increasing availability of dental health and mental health services for low-income families.

• Promote pathways out of poverty, such as Earned Income Tax Credits and transitional jobs.

• Promote healthy behaviors and access to resources for healthy living across the life span.

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 (262) 637-8377 for more information.