Improving Birth Outcomes in Kenosha

The Kenosha LIHF Collaborative is the key community resource for information on healthy birth outcomes in Kenosha County.

**Description:** As part of the Lifecourse Initiative for Healthy Families (LIHF), community stakeholders in Kenosha established a collaborative to enhance coordination of services among local agencies and organizations that work toward improving health, strengthening families and addressing policy and systems change. The collaborative developed a community action plan that reflects the vision and strategies for improving the health for African American women, infants and families in the Kenosha community.

**Relevance:** At the onset of the Kenosha LIHF project, an African American baby born in Kenosha was almost three times more likely to die before his or her first birthday than a white infant. Addressing disparities in birth outcomes will lead to improvements in overall community health and well-being.

**Partnerships:** Kenosha LIHF created new connections with key public and private organizations across multiple sectors to address social and health factors that adversely impact women, fathers, children and families. The collaborative benefitted from a partnership with The Mahone Fund and the Kenosha Community Health Center to help engage the business and corporate sectors to support strategies that promote health and healthy birth outcomes.

**Results:** More than 110 agency leaders and residents participated in the planning process, which included a community-needs assessment, site visits to learn about promising interventions and discussion groups to inform development of the community action plan. In 2012, the Kenosha LIHF Collaborative raised funds from health organizations and community sponsors to sponsor a community baby shower providing gift bags to more than 100 expectant women and families.

Strategies during implementation will focus on service coordination among the LIHF grantees that address father involvement, home visiting, group prenatal care and racism.

The Kenosha community action plan is available at www.med.wisc.edu/LIHF.

KENOSHA LIFECOURSE INITIATIVE FOR HEALTHY FAMILIES

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**Award:** $250,000 over two years