



Community Grant Outcome Report

Name: Health Care Task Force on Pre- and Inter-Conception Care: Optimizing Women's Health and Increasing Access to Primary and Preventive Health Services

Grantee: Aurora Women's Health Services

Contact Name; phone; e-mail: Claudette Hamm; 414-329-5619 ext 5620; Claudette.hamm@aurora.org

Academic Partner: Tina Mason, MD, MPH, Associate Professor (CHS), Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology, UW SMPH

Program: Development

Grant Duration: 05/01/2007 to 10/31/2008 (18 months)

Expenditures: \$39,123 of \$49,567 (79% expended)

Use of Funds: Task force development

► **Description:** This project brought together a task force of healthcare systems, community health centers, social/health service agencies, and academicians for the purposes of optimizing women's health in Milwaukee County. The goal of the task force was to develop culturally appropriate strategies for: (1) improving pre- and inter-conception women's health care services and (2) increasing women's awareness and knowledge about their care and self-care before pregnancy and in between pregnancies.

► **Results:** The Health Care Task Force on Pre- and Inter-Conception Care, in partnership with the Center for Urban Population Health (CUPH), developed instruments and conducted a formative assessment of pre- and inter-conception care (PIC) in the Milwaukee area.

There were two key findings from a survey of over 100 health care providers which examined types of PIC services currently available to women, the provider's level of cultural competency, and perceptions of unmet health needs. First, providers feel the biggest challenge in providing culturally competent care is a lack of resources and educational materials to offer their patients. Second, PIC care is complicated by unplanned pregnancies, a lack of time during well woman visits, and patients' decisions to not follow provider advice due to conflicting advice from other sources.

Key findings from 13 focus groups conducted with 66 women (African-American, White, Hmong, and Latina) in target zip codes included: (1) the primary challenges in receiving PIC are cost of care and insurance status and (2) these women experience conflicts between provider advice and familial/cultural traditions when it comes to PIC. A significant finding from this project is that patients need a forum in which to ask health questions of professionals outside of providers' offices. The Task Force used these data to develop an implementation plan and to prioritize action plan objectives.

► **Met Objectives:** Project completed

► **Baseline Progress on State Health Plan Objectives:** Not measured

► **Academic Partner Role:** Consultation

► **Matched Dollars (cash or in-kind):** \$0

► **Dissemination:**

- Project results disseminated to all local stakeholders and participant clinics
- Presentation at national conference
- Plans for manuscript submission

► **Sustained:** Partners plan to move forward with implementation.