



Community Benefit Statement

The Northern New Jersey Maternal/Child Health Consortium (NC) was incorporated as an independent 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization in Paterson, NJ, in 1992 and established exclusively to improve the health of women and children. The Consortium stimulates innovative program development, facilitates public and private sector partnerships, disseminates scientifically based information, educates professionals and consumers, monitors health outcomes, and advocates for health improvement. Committed to continuous quality improvement and program evaluation, the Consortium promotes multi-faceted activities that ensure maternal and child well being in a culturally supportive / sensitive environment. The NC is deeply rooted within the communities it serves and its programs incorporate cultural awareness and sensitivity. In fact, the NC has been nationally recognized for its work promoting cultural competency and advocating for the elimination of racial/ethnic health disparities.

The Consortium is licensed by the NJ Department of Health and Senior Services (NJDHSS) to address unmet maternal/child health needs in Bergen, Essex, Morris, and Passaic counties. The organization facilitates communication between health professionals and among member hospitals, ambulatory care centers, and Federally Qualified Health Clinics. The Consortium complements and expands upon the work of its affiliated members by providing community-based educational, advocacy, outreach, and home visitation services for women, children and families at risk of poor pregnancy outcomes. Each member hospital is represented on our Board of Trustees, which is comprised of hospital representatives, community based organizations, and consumers. In addition, the Consortium is required by State regulations to have a maternal/child nurse, an obstetrician, a pediatrician and a health officer on the Board. The NC's staff of approximately 65 professionals is inclusive of a physician, nurses, social workers, outreach workers, and public health experts. The NC operates programs out of 5 locations in the region, with a \$5.5 million annual budget.

The NC created the Black Infant Mortality Reduction Resource (BIMRR) Center, a program dedicated to eliminating racial disparities in pregnancy outcomes. The BIMRR Center trains health care professionals on cultural competency and is an advocate for social justice in the delivery of health care. The Consortium's lead poisoning prevention program includes the administration of the Northern Jersey Regional Lead Poisoning Prevention Coalition as well as an initiative that trains contractors and homeowners to work safely with pre-existing lead paint and assists property owners to prepare applications for the state's low-interest loans for lead abatement. The NC trains physicians and nurses throughout New Jersey on postpartum depression (PPD), clarifying that mental health is as critical as physical health to ensure a healthy and well-functioning family dynamic. The NC also operates the Fetal Infant Mortality Review (FIMR) project which is designed to reduce preventable fetal and infant deaths through case review. FIMR provides opportunities for bereaved parents and families to share their feelings and concerns, as well as information and referrals to facilitate their healing. The NC's Perinatal Addiction Prevention Project trains medical providers to screen women for substance abuse and partner violence in order to identify and refer at-risk women for treatment. The NC's Health Literacy project incorporates health literacy modules into existing adult English as a Second Language (ESL) programs geared toward immigrants to improve the ability to understand and access healthcare. The NC also provides quality improvement to providers who utilize the web-based New Jersey Immunization Information System.

The NC is the parent corporation of both Paterson Healthy Mothers / Healthy Babies (PHM/HB) and Healthy Mothers / Healthy Babies of Essex (HMHB-E). Both PHM/HB and HM/HB-E were founded in 1985 to reduce infant death in their communities and were formally incorporated as subsidiaries of the NC in 1997. Grant funding for both entities was discontinued at the end of 2009. PHM/HB provided a formal network among Paterson's health and social service providers serving women and children. In 2009, the NC administered three home visitation programs at PHM/HB to increase parenting skills and promote connections with health care providers: the Paterson Safety Net Program, Passaic County Healthy Families/TANF Initiative for Parents (TIP), and the Nurse Family Partnership Program.

HM/HB of Essex developed programs to bring women into prenatal care and children into pediatric care. HM/HB-E collaborated with several local community-based organizations with specialty expertise in

the areas of community outreach and health screening, and to develop other worthwhile programs to address unmet needs. HM/HB of Essex oversaw outreach and educational programs serving the communities of Irvington, Orange, East Orange, and Newark. HM/HB-E also administered the Healthy Families/TIP home visitation program in East Orange/urban Essex County.

The NC also operates the Irvington Family Development Center, a Family Success Center (IFDC). The goal of the IFDC is to support families living in Irvington, New Jersey, by providing a single source of referral for community resources and services, including those that promote health education and well-being of Irvington children and their families. The IFDC also offers additional services focusing on literacy, early childhood mental health, education for childcare providers, parent education, and prenatal and pediatric health screenings. At the end of 2009, the IFDC initiated a new program to provide education and support to fathers from Essex County to promote positive interaction and involvement in children's lives.

As demonstrated above, the NC conducts diverse activities to accomplish its mission. One of our core functions is health planning, requiring our organization to continuously assess community needs and to strategize on how to address these needs.