



## **PREMATURITY CAMPAIGN COLLABORATIVE**

**Registration is open for the Prematurity Prevention Summit: Building a Birth Equity Movement, May 21 & 22, 2018, Renaissance Arlington Capitol View Hotel, Arlington, VA**

Please [register](#) to reserve your spot! In-person meetings of Collaborative Workgroups will be conducted on the second day of the summit. All Prematurity Campaign Collaborative participants are encouraged to attend.

### **Full Collaborative**

Full Collaborative meetings were held on February 28 and December 14. At the February 28 meeting, Vanessa Lee, Infant Mortality CoIIN Coordinator, and the Project Directors for each of the four Infant Mortality CoIIN projects discussed their plans. The full Collaborative also had an opportunity to comment on the Health Equity Workgroup Guiding Principles.

At the December 14 meeting, two guest speakers discussed preterm birth trends and the increase in the preterm birth rate between 2014 and 2016. Thank you to William Callaghan, MD, MPH, Chief, Maternal & Infant Health Branch, Division of Reproductive Health, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and William Sappenfield, MD, MPH, CPH, Professor, Department of Community and Family Health, University of South Florida College of Public Health, for sharing their insight with the full Collaborative and fostering an interesting discussion about these trends.

### **Health Equity Workgroup**

The Health Equity Workgroup held its first of meeting of 2018 on January 18th. Members reviewed the status of the work products, shared equity related resources and brainstormed speakers and topics for the upcoming Summit.

The Health Equity Workgroup is finalizing its first work product, a set of guiding principles and glossary. This document will give guidance and define key terms for the entire Collaborative to have a shared understanding of equity and to ensure that equity is at the forefront of their thinking as they consider their work. It will be released during the 2018 Prematurity Prevention Summit in May.

Writing has commenced on the Health Equity Workgroup's second work product, a scientific consensus statement on equity and birth outcomes. The consensus statement document will recognize the invaluable contributions that can be made by different disciplines, forms of scientific inquiry, and research methods with the aim of advancing equity in birth outcomes. This document is also scheduled for release during the 2018 Prematurity Prevention Summit in May.

The next Health Equity Workgroup meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 20th from 2:00PM – 3:30PM ET. Dr. Cheri Pies, Principal Investigator for the Best Babies Zone (BBZ) Initiative will give a presentation, highlighting the recently released [BBZ Basics](#). BBZ Basics is a step-by-step guide to implementing the BBZ approach, which is a place-based, multi-sector, community-driven initiative to reduce racial inequities in infant mortality.

### **Clinical and Public Health Practice Workgroup**

The Clinical and Public Health Practice (CPHP) Workgroup convened on February 20 and

December 15 to advance their work on prematurity prevention opportunities, including access to 17P, intake of low-dose aspirin to prevent preeclampsia and preterm birth, and birth spacing/interconception care. At both meetings, participants reviewed a 17P resource list that includes examples of several strategies addressing 17P access and utilization: legislation to allow pharmacists to administer 17P, steps to reducing barriers related to prior authorization, administration of 17P outside of the clinic, and patient education tools. In addition, the March of Dimes Health Action sheets on [low-dose aspirin](#) and 17P were shared (click on hyperlink, then click on “download” under the video).

On February 20, Erica P. Giwa, MD, Center for Children and Women Southwest Presented strategies to improve low-dose aspirin implementation in a patient- and family-focused medical home model. On December 15, Erin K. McClain, MA, MPH of the University of North Carolina shared how communities in North Carolina have studied and addressed some of the patient barriers to accessing 17P.

### **Policy Workgroup**

The Policy Workgroup met on February 6th with two presentations from local initiatives focused on improving birth outcomes. Erika Jones, Executive Director of CelebrateOne, provided an overview of this multi-faceted infant mortality reduction initiative in Columbus, Ohio. Cathy Costa, Director of Strategic Initiatives in the Bureau of Maternal and Child Health at the Baltimore City Health Department, spoke about B'more for Health Babies, an initiative focused on improving birth outcomes in Baltimore. Both initiatives have policy components which have resulted in significant reduction in infant mortality in these cities. In the coming months, the Policy Workgroup will continue further information gathering to inform our efforts to improve birth outcomes.

In addition, we are working with American University public health students to complete a comprehensive review of the impact of economic policies on birth outcomes. These students will produce an annotated bibliography of sources, and are working to develop three issue briefs on various policies that impact birth outcomes.

### **Communications Workgroup**

The Communications Workgroup as well as other Collaborative Workgroups have discussed focusing on narrative change around equity and social determinants of health. The March of Dimes is beginning a project with the FrameWorks Institute to advance these goals. The FrameWorks Institute will present at the March 8 Communications Workgroup meeting and participants will provide input into the upcoming project. Health Equity and Policy Workgroup participants have also been invited.

## **Summary of Upcoming Virtual Meetings**

### **2018**

- *Full Collaborative: 2/28, 5/21-22(summit), 8/29, 11/29*
- *Health Equity: 1/18, 3/20, 7/19, 9/18, 11/15*
- *Clinical & Public Health Practice 2/20, 4/17, 6/21, 8/22, 10/18, 12/12*
- *Policy: 2/6, 3/6, 4/3, 5/9, 6/11, 7/10, 8/7, 9/14, 10/2, 11/5, 12/4*
- *Communications: 3/8, 5/3, 7/12, 9/13, 11/8*

All meetings are open to the public. Please [email for more information](#).

## **News, Tools and Resources**

### **Patient and Provider Resources for 17P**

The University of North Carolina Center for Maternal and Infant Health offers [resources](#) for patients and providers about 17P.

### **Dr. Art James on NPR: “How Racism May Cause Black Mothers to Suffer the Death of Their Infants”**

The Health Equity Workgroup is addressing the underlying societal causes of preterm birth. Dr. Art James appeared on [NPR](#) to discuss the link between racism and birth outcomes.

### **Prematurity Campaign Collaborative Materials**

If you missed a meeting or want to see what the other workgroup are up to, you may access notes and resources at [www.marchofdimes.org/collaborative](http://www.marchofdimes.org/collaborative).

### **Spotlight**



Thank you to Erin McCain of the University of North Carolina Center for Maternal and Infant Health Children’s Hospital for presenting at the December Clinical and Public Health Practice meeting.



Thank you to William Callaghan from CDC (left) and William Sappenfield of the University of South Florida for their presentations at the December Full Collaborative meeting.

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**March of Dimes**

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