



Lower Hudson Valley Perinatal Network

Serving Dutchess, Putnam, Rockland & Westchester Counties

September 2007

Cheryl Hunter-Grant, LMSW
Executive Director
Visiting Lecturer, NYMC
School of Public Health

Heather Brumberg, MD, MPH
Medical Director
Assistant Professor Pediatrics
NYMC School of Public Health
Director, Regional Neonatal Public
Health Programs, The Regional
NICU, MFCH

Steering Committee

Dutchess County Dept. of Health
Jamie Farrell-Lizotte, RN, MS
Nursing Supervisor
Judith Rosenfeld, RN, MSN
Public Health Nurse

Putnam County Dept. of Health
Loretta Molinari, RN, MSN
Associate Commissioner of Health
Anka Roberto, RN, MSN, MPH
Public Health Nurse

Rockland County Dept. of Health
Carole VanNahl, RN, MPA
Supervising Public Health Nurse

Westchester County Dept. of Health
Nancy Daley, RN C, MSN
Nursing Supervisor
Jane Alayan, RN C, MSN
Perinatal Hep B Prevention Coor.

Babies R Us
Sandra Leal
Store Promotional Coordinator
Eileen Laureano
District Promotional Supervisor

Healthy Yonkers Initiative
Linda Bohan, RN C, MSN
Director of Community Outreach

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Director of Nursing

March of Dimes NYS Chapter
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Lynnea Carstens, CNM, NP, MSN
Midwife

Planned Parenthood
Hudson Peconic
Tracy Webber, RN, CNM, MSN, MPA
Director, Clinical Services

Consumers
Symra D. Brandon, LMSW, MPA
Consumer Advocate

Maria Casella
White Plains Hospital
Chair, Neonatal Parents Network

Dionne Polite
American Diabetes Association
Sr. Director Outreach Programs

Dear Partner,

The Lower Hudson Valley Perinatal Network (LHVPN) is challenged by poor birth outcomes that transcend race and ethnicity in areas of our region, i.e., prematurity, low birth weight, and late or no prenatal care. Overcoming the association of being a wealthy region without need will require the extensive education of health and human service providers, educators, childcare providers, government officials, and the public at large. There is also a need to increase awareness of racial and ethnic disparities in perinatal health that exists within the region. Rates of chronic disease such as obesity and teen pregnancy also negatively impact birth outcomes in this region. You can help us tackle these issues and enhance birth outcomes in the region by joining the **LHVPN's Perinatal Health Speakers' Bureau**.

The LHVPN is one of several comprehensive Prenatal-Perinatal service networks in New York State. Established in 2004, with funding by the March of Dimes, and recently awarded funding by New York State Department of Health, the LHVPN covers Dutchess, Putnam, Rockland, and Westchester counties. The purpose of the LHVPN is to improve pregnancy outcomes, promote better maternal & child/infant healthcare, establish links between providers and consumers, and to ensure that families have access to preventative care, primary care, social support, and educational resources in their county.

The network is currently in the process of actively recruiting speakers to provide our members and our communities the services of a Perinatal Health Speakers Bureau. Speaking can both be personally rewarding and a way to serve the LHVPN community. Our goal is to be able to offer broad based provider and consumer education focusing on maternal, child and family health issues, racial and ethnic disparities, intersection of chronic disease and perinatal health, cultural competence, and life course as it impacts perinatal health. As a member of the LHVPN Speakers' Bureau, you would be contacted to lecture and speak about your area of special interest or expertise. You may be contacted to visit colleges, health and human service agencies, hospitals, non-profit organizations, staff and faculty development trainings, corporate employee resource groups, student organizations, religious organizations, and more, thereby becoming an active advocate for educating the public on these important matters.

If you are interested in changing the way the public thinks about perinatal health, I hope you'll take advantage of our offer to become part of the **LHVPN Perinatal Health Speakers' Bureau** and complete the enclosed Registration Form. If you have any questions, please contact us at 914-493-6435, or by email: info@LHVPN.net. Our website www.lhvpn.net can also be a valuable source of information. We look forward to working with you to enhance the health of women, children and families.

Sincerely,

Cheryl Hunter-Grant
Executive Director



The Maria Fareri Children's Hospital at Westchester Medical Center

Valhalla, NY 10595

Phone: 914-493-6435

Website: www.LHVPN.net

Fax: 914-493-1005

Program organized in 2004 by the Maria Fareri Children's Hospital Regional Perinatal Center with March of Dimes funding