

**HealthConnect One
National Community-based Doula Network Quarterly Conference Call
November 8, 2011
11am-12:30 pm CST
AGENDA**

RSVP List

1. Marianne Ehrlich, Healthy Family Initiatives, Houston TX
2. Tanya Green, Doula, Birthways, Inc. Chicago, IL
3. Jaycee Coles, Community-based Doula
4. Karen Bayne
5. Ellen Hamrick, BirthMatters, Spartanburg, SC
6. Molly Chappell-McPhail, BirthMatters, Spartanburg, SC
7. Jessica Carda-Auten, NACCHO, DC
8. Nakeisha Robinson, South Bay Center for Community Development, CA
9. Shirley Williams, Beloit, WI
10. Erika Gothberg
11. Cleo Reed, Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Council, Lac du Flambeau, WI
12. Denise Bischof, Doula Foundation of Mid-America, Springfield, MO
13. Katherine Hensley, YWCA of Asheville, Asheville, NC
14. Marisa Pena-Alfaro, Healthy Family Initiatives, Houston, TX
15. Rickie Kashdan, Meridian Health
16. Allison Stanton, Brighter Beginnings, Oakland, CA
17. Cynthia Salter, The Birth Circle, PA
18. Jessica Newsome
19. Nicole Grafilo, National Institute for Reproductive Health, NARAL, New York, NY
20. Stacey Gregg, DONA NJ Maternity Care
21. Marie Hogarty, Gateway Northwest MCH Network, Morristown, NJ
22. Naima Black, Maternity Care Coalition, Philadelphia, PA
23. Sherry Matemachani, Wellness Team, Inc., Indianapolis, IN
24. Shundrika Houston, Families First
25. Katherine Hall-Trujillo, Birthing Project USA
26. Stacey Atwell-Keister, The Birth Circle
27. Georg'ann Cattelona, Bloomington Area Birth Services, Bloomington, IN
28. Jere McKinley, HealthConnect One
29. Wandy Hernandez, HealthConnect One
30. Rachel Abramson, HealthConnect One
31. Melanie Garrett, HealthConnect One
32. Mac Grambauer, Health Connect One
33. Laura McAlpine, HealthConnect One

Welcome/Introductions

11:00am CDT

- Jere welcomed everyone on the call, facilitated introductions, and directed people to the website for agenda and reference materials.
- Healthy Family Initiatives Houston
 - Marisa Pena-Alfaro, Director of Community-based (CB) Doula program
- The Birth Circle

- Stacey Atwell-Keister, Doula Services Coordinator
- Cyndy Salter, Program Director
- Jaycee Coles, CB Doula
- BirthMatters
 - Ellen Hamrick
- Beloit—Rock Walworth Comprehensive Family Services
 - Shirley Williams, Doula, Facilitator for Trainings
- Doula Foundation of Mid-America
 - Denise Bischof
- YWCA of Asheville
 - Katherine Hensley
- Allison Stanton, Brighter Beginnings, Oakland, CA
- Rickie Kashdan, Meridian Health
- Nicole Grafilo, National Institute for Reproductive Health, NARAL, New York, NY
- Kathryn Hall-Trujillo, The Birthing Project
- Ashley Anderson, Teen Parent Connection, Glen Ellyn, IL
- Marie Hogarty, Elizabeth NJ
- Cleo Reed, Great Lakes
- Sherry Matemachani, Wellness Team, Indianapolis
- Stacey Gregg, New Jersey Maternity Care

Updates from DC Meetings

- **Community Health Workers (CHWs): Wandy Hernandez, HealthConnect One (HC One)**
 - Announced her role as Chair-Elect of American Public Health Association (APHA) CHW Section, as well as Laura Bahena's role on the Office of Minority Health Promotora Steering Committee.
 - Shared updates on our conversations with CHW leaders at the APHA conference, including the talking points we shared at the APHA reception that approximately 35 CHWs, doulas and breastfeeding peer counselors attended:
 - CB Doulas, Breastfeeding (BF) Peer counselors, navigators, outreach workers all fall under umbrella of CHWs.
 - HC One's community health worker programs improve infant health, strengthen families, and establish supports for families to ensure ongoing family success.
 - We connect underserved women to other women who are specially trained to provide support during the childbearing year – those critical months of pregnancy, birth, and the immediate postpartum period.
 - Community health workers who are doulas and breastfeeding peer counselors are:
 - Committed to helping other women and families in their communities have satisfying birthing and parenting experiences.
 - Specially trained using HC One's model to provide culturally sensitive pregnancy, birthing and parenting support to women and their families.
 - We know this is a sensitive period in which families have a unique openness to change, learning and growth.
 - The key to our success is that our community health workers, doulas and breastfeeding peer counselors are of and from the same communities as our clients.

- Wandy noted that a number of coalitions are looking at our work, both federally with CB Doula and breastfeeding, as well as our work in IL where we were able to successfully advocate for Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) to include certification of CHW as one of the Community Transformation Grant (CTG) strategies, in addition to a breastfeeding strategy.
- Reported on our meeting with Mayra Alvarez, Office of Health Reform, who said that promotion of CHWs is a key goal for implementation of the Affordable Care Act (ACA).
- Encouraged people on the call to read the letter to CHWS written by President Obama (on HC website, under the Advocacy/Community Health Worker Advocacy pages).
- Asked if anyone is using CHW certification curricula in their states
 - Marisa, Healthy Family Initiatives Houston: four of our nine doulas are also trained as CHWS by Houston Community College
- APHA CHW Section is trying to develop a core guidance/statement that will be of benefit to all CHWs, particularly in regards to certification.
 - CHW certification will be its own identifier—the key is being a trusted community member. This could be a statement with the section.
 - Guidelines will be very general to allow for variations among the states.
 - Concern about requirements for ‘trusted member from the community’: need to look closely at what that means. We want to include everyone, but also stay true to the CHW role. It’s a delicate issue.
 - Wandy: we are aware of these concerns, and will consider them. People can contact me at wandyhdz@healthconnectone.org with further questions/comments/concerns.
 - Rachel Abramson, HC One: this is a very important conversation; some of the future of the CB Doula model is in the interest/support of CHW model. The role is defined, for both, by community-based providers, usually who live there, reflect the culture, values, language, experience of community—racial, ethnic, socioeconomic, and are engaged in a way in which people trust them as natural leaders. We really feel it’s important to define these models in this way and integrate this model with other CHW initiatives.
- Wandy talked about the CHW Reception at APHA:
 - 35 attendees from different parts of the country
 - Opportunity to network and talk about what they were doing
 - Recognized the need to unify—we can’t save our funding and programs unless we all work together.
- Wandy asked if anyone had state updates on CHW work going on locally:
 - Hanifah Rios, Georgia Campaign for Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention (GCAPP): feminist women’s health center, Lifting Latino Voices, have CHWs
 - Sherry Matemachani: Beth Johnson, State Department of Health, interest in CHW programs in the Indianapolis area
- **Special Projects of Regional and National Significance (SPRANS): Laura McAlpine, HC One Advocacy Consultant**
 - Directed people to the website for reference information
 - Thanked people for responding to action alerts around protecting Title V and Maternal and Child Health (MCH) programs
 - SPRANS funds HC One as the Community-based Doula Leadership Institute, as well as six replication sites. The funding stream was established in 2008, and we always knew we

wouldn't live there forever. Now, with the budget battle, we are seeing we may have to find a place to move sooner than we thought.

- The SPRANS funding for the CB Doula program distributed by HRSA is not currently in the Senate report, so it's likely to not make it into the final appropriation bill passed by Congress. However, it is likely to still be in the House report, but the House version defunds ACA (Health Reform), Title X and the Women Infant Children (WIC) program.
 - We have taken the position that we object to ANY cuts to MCH programs.
 - While in Washington DC, we talked to Senate and House Appropriations Committee staff to talk about the importance of the programs.
 - Their current course of action is to put together smaller "minibus" agency bills to pass, as opposed to a large omnibus bill.
 - The Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) bill, which is where funding for HHS sits, likely will be linked to Defense bill.
 - We don't really know what will happen there—staff gave different scenarios, and everyone seems to be really far apart.
 - The deficit reduction committee (Super Committee) still working on deficit reduction in the form of cuts. The current Continuing Resolution expires on November 18th, and the committee's recommendations are required by November 23rd.
 - If the Super Committee doesn't come up with something by Thanksgiving, there is a default plan that means significant, across-the-board funding cuts—everyone wants to avoid that, but no one seems to know which way it will go.
 - We encourage all of you to call your elected Officials and register a comment with their staff that you oppose any cuts to Maternal and Child Health programs.
- **Integration : Rachel Abramson, HC One and Laura McAlpine**
 - When we started going after federal funding, we wanted to introduce CB Doula funding, but also wanted to grow that funding stream, and our congressional leaders saw the Affordable Care Act (ACA) as the main opportunity for that, especially since CHWs are included.
 - Section 5313 pertains to CHWs, we're still hoping it will get funded.
 - Noted integration conversations continued at HRSA with Terry Adirim, Jim Macrae and Chris DeGraw; and George Askew at the Administration of Children and Families (ACF).
 - They are all also thinking about integration
 - Would like to change funding from the current silos to following the mothers and babies
 - HRSA/ACF are very familiar now with CB Doula and are looking at ways of integrating into FQHCs and Homevisiting programs.
 - Important that CB Doulas are seen as CHWS that meet the MCH outcome objectives
 - Everyone is holding their breath about the budget cuts, don't know what will happen to ACA
 - Asked if there were any questions about HC One's work to integrate CB Doula in the HRSA and Homevisiting programs:

- Is any integration going on already, or is that a concept you're hoping will take root?
 - There are already CB doula programs connected to Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) around country, and we talked about those communities in our meetings with agency staff.
 - Told Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) and ACF that we'd like to see them allow more flexibility so that Homevisiting (HV) and FQHCs can use dollars to integrate doula.
- In Illinois, similar dollars are being spent to do a randomized control trial of CB doula.
- Asking everyone to think about if there is a way to break down silos and make it easier for doula to be integrated to all these programs it touches.
- Willing to share FQHCs and Early head Start programs so we can learn from them
 - The Birth Circle is affiliated with an FQHC
 - ReGenesis community health center—BirthMatters
 - Shirley Williams, Rock Walworth Early Head Start, began program two years ago, now expanding
 - Early Head Start and FQHCs applied for funding through the federal HRSA funds—combination of funding resources
- Very impressive how much interest there was in integrating CB doula into a variety of different structures, as well as the conversations in and between agencies around early health and early learning.
- There are conversations at the highest levels in agencies to bring the two together, and recognition that CB doula does that in a remarkable way.

HC One Summit 2012—Melanie

- Save the date: February 28-29, 2012, HC One National Action Summit, Hilton Arlington
 - Shorter
 - Grantee workshops on February 27th
 - Focused on advocacy, with transportation to the Capitol Hill provided
 - Leap into Action!
- Registration opens January 2, 2012, keep an eye out for additional information

Site Updates

- **Ellen** talked about BirthMatters
 - HRSA Site
 - 3 full time doulas
 - 30 moms since end of June
 - 5 births
 - 100% breastfeeding at birth, ½ still breastfeeding
 - No access to affordable car seats—project they're taking on as a pet project
 - ehamrick@myrhc.org for more info

Voter Registration—Mac

- November 4th marked the one-year out date for Election Day 2012. As we move through this election year, we'll be navigating numerous campaigns, candidates, and debates. Considering

the current context—budget cuts, etc, which we’ve already talked about, and given that we encourage all of you and your clients to join us in our advocacy efforts, we thought we should begin with the basics, which is voter registration.

- One way to feel empowered to do advocacy work is by knowing that the elected officials you’re connecting with are hired (voted in) by you. So, throughout this election year, we’ll be sharing tips and answering questions about Getting Out the Vote, and helping all of you and your clients to get registered.
- To be clear about regulations regarding non-profits and Voter Registration, your organization may participate in voter education and registration activities as long as you are not telling people who to vote for, or asking them to vote for the candidate of your choice if you’re helping to register them. HC One has a document regarding the rules for advocacy and voting available for your reference.
- There are several websites that are great resources for registering and asking questions:
 - www.rockthevote.com allows you to Register to vote (right on the home page), ask questions in Election Land (click on your state), find your polling place, etc.
 - Rock the Vote also has a partner tool, which enables you to add a voter registration mechanism to your organization’s website—HC One will be doing this
 - www.headcount.org is another voter registration website that has a great list of Frequently Asked Questions and also allows for voter registration (if you don’t feel like rocking).
 - www.votesmart.org does not have a voter registration mechanism, but has great education tools—all kinds of information on candidates and election issues.
- These websites and resources will be made available on the HC One website, I am available to help answer questions— mac@lmc Alpine.com, and we will keep everyone up to date with tips and other resources.

Closing – Jere

- **Jere** made closing remarks, thanked everyone for being on the call, and asked that newcomers contact us so we can keep in touch. Also noted date/time of next Network call **Tuesday, February 7, 2011: 11:00am-12:30pm CST**

Adjourn

12:30pm CST