



Preconception Care Council of California

Sponsored by

California Department of Public Health • Maternal and Child Health Program • March of Dimes, California Chapter

Mission

The mission of the Preconception Care Council of California (PCCC) is to engage individuals, communities and policymakers to optimize the health and well-being of women and their partners, leading to healthier infants and families.

Purpose

The PCCC is a statewide forum for planning and decision-making for the integration, development and promotion of optimal health before pregnancy. Formed in May 2006, the PCCC engages stakeholders to increase awareness of and access to preconception care for women of childbearing age in California. The Council achieves consensus on goals, objectives and activities developed to implement the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) National Select Panel Recommendations on preconception care. It also serves as a clearinghouse and networking source for preconception efforts across the state, including four new March of Dimes-funded preconception demonstration projects.

The PCCC prioritizes issues through regular meetings of a multi-disciplinary committee and issue-specific workgroups, and provides direction for:

- Integration of preconception care into clinical and public health practice;
- Development of financial and public policy strategies to support and sustain preconception care;
- Promotion of key preconception care messages to women of reproductive age in California; and
- Increasing access to preconception care to eliminate disparities in maternal and infant morbidity and mortality.

Activities

Council members formed three work-groups in late 2006: Clinical/Research; Public Health/Consumer; and Finance/Policy. Each work-group has developed an action plan for its particular area of focus and work-group members are now collaborating with other local partners to implement these plans.

Current work-group activities include:

- Developing provider education tools, accessed through a statewide preconception health website, and exploring the possibility of local pilot research projects.
- Clarifying the role that existing MCAH programs play in preconception health promotion and developing curricula and messaging to support and expand upon these efforts.
- Educating the legislature about preconception care; advocacy for related bills; and development of recommendations for the integration of preconception and interconception health care services into proposed health care reform packages.

The workgroup plans will be combined into a set of comprehensive recommendations that will inform the preconception activities outlined in the State MCAH Program's Title V Implementation plan.

The PCCC is proud to host the Second National Summit on Preconception Health and Health Care and to have been an active participant in its planning. We look forward to an excellent meeting and many more years of progress on the preconception health front.

Preconception Care Council of California

Council Executive Committee

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LA County Department of Public Health / MCAH Action
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