

The Kentucky Folic Acid Partnership...*Promoting Perinatal Health*

KFAP Meeting Minutes

State Laboratory Building, Frankfort, Kentucky

May 26, 2005, 11:00-1:00PM Eastern Time

Attendance: Pat Dintaman (Spina Bifida Assoc. of KY), Cris Sparks (DPH), Betsy McDowell (DPH), Paula Watson (Clark Co. HD), Carol Mock (Bluegrass Family Health), Lisa Heck (Northern KY HD), Shellie Cunningham (Three Rivers HD), Elizabeth Crigler (Three Rivers HD), Katrina Thompson (March of Dimes), Joyce Robl (DPH), Connie Johnson (Pike Co. HD), Sandy Cleveland (DPH), Dr. Steve Davis (DPH), Linda Lancaster (DPH), Janet Mitchell (Div. Of Mental Health & Substance Abuse), Diane Sprowl (Barren River HD), and Susan Boarders (Jefferson Co. HD)

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Diane Sprowl. Susan Brown was absent because of surgery.

Members introduced themselves.

The January 27, 2005 minutes were approved.

Committee Reports:

2005 Plan Status

Media-Lisa Heck reported that the committee is working on binders for media guides. Lisa noted that it is now possible to report both prematurity and folic acid activities to be included in the monthly reports, but so far most of the reported activities have been for folic acid. She encouraged members to report more prematurity activities. Year to date there have been 216 media activities reported. There were a lot of activities reported in January. The 2005 media plan was distributed.

Community-Diane Sprowl distributed copies of the 2005 plans. She reported that the website has been recently updated with links to data and other information about folic acid, as well as more information about prematurity, including a PowerPoint presentation of prematurity statistics for Kentucky. Diane requested that members send her information, pictures (hard copy or email files), and any educational materials that can be added to the website. Pat Dintaman talked about some activities that Spina Bifida Assoc. of KY has recently done. She passed around pictures from their exhibit at the KY state fair and a home and garden show. Pat also told about a "Dear Parents" letter SBAK did that was given to middle school students. She reported that there were no newborn cases of NTD's in Lexington or Louisville since November. Diane also distributed an updated summary of prematurity in Kentucky that came from March of Dimes' Peristats (www.marchofdimes.com/peristats).

Diane distributed a PowerPoint handout about an online course on prematurity that is being developed by the Kentucky Perinatal Association. Dr.

Ruth Ann Shepherd and Dr. Henrietta Bada have been working on the project. The course will be for health professionals and will be online later this year. The information in the handout would be helpful for helping KFAP plan activities to address prematurity.

Professional-Joyce Robl reported that the committee is finalizing their 2005 plans. Dr. David Adamkin is to come on to the committee as co-chair. The June PCC News will have an article about prematurity by Dr. O'Brien. March of Dimes is planning a prematurity summit in the fall. The committee members are working with KY Perinatal Assoc. on their web-based CEU program.

There was a discussion about "evidence-based" verses "science-based" verses "promising practices". Dr. Davis explained that "evidence based" means that there is a known favorable outcome in practice without being replicated scientifically. An example of an evidence-based practice is the Cooper-Clayton smoking cessation program. A "promising practice" is a practice we think will work but have no studies to prove it. An example of a promising practice is making changes in school food to decrease obesity. "Science-based" means that there have been rigorous scientific studies to prove the effectiveness of a strategy. An example of a science-based practice is folic acid for preventing NTD's. Linda Lancaster said that she would try to find the article she read about evidence-based practices and send it to the members.

The Professional committee is working on an article to summarize NTD information from 1996 to 2003. They will include rates by Area Development District if the numbers are high enough. Joyce encouraged anyone interested to join the Professional committee. Also, if members are going to professional conferences, take the folic acid display. MOD has a prematurity display that can be used at conferences too.

Dr. Davis-Chairman's Report:

Dr. Davis talked about the importance of the work of KFAP. He stated that when he first came to the Dept. for Public Health he identified two broad concerns about Maternal and Child Health. The concerns were infant mortality and access to health care for children and low-income adults. Under infant mortality he identified the key issues of prenatal care, newborn screening, birth defects, preterm birth, and injury prevention. He talked about each of the issues and progress made to date. He thanked the KFAP members for being the "doers" to get the work done to help decrease birth defects and to get the momentum going on activities to reduce prematurity.

Dr. Davis announced that Dr. David Adamkin is to take over being chair of the prematurity steering committee.

Currently work is being done to create a PowerPoint presentation about infant mortality statistics to show to providers and legislators in 120 counties in order to "plant seeds" about the importance of addressing premature births. The initial hospital cost for preterm babies is over \$300 million per year. If preterm

births decreased, it would free up funds for other uses, such as education and the environment. This type of information is important for providers and legislators to know.

Dr. Davis announced that in September Dr. Ruth Ann Shepherd would be coming to the Dept. of Public Health to take over his former position as Director of Adult and Child Health. She has 20 years of experience in private practice in neonatology and close connections to the March of Dimes and KY Perinatal Association.

Old Business

The website was discussed during the Community committee report.

Katrina Thompson talked about plans for the Prematurity Summit that is being planned for Monday, November 14th. The location is undetermined at this time. Instead of focusing on research, the steering committee decided to have a morning session for lay people and an afternoon session for health professionals, with an interactive lunch that gives lay people the opportunity to sit with an expert and discuss prematurity. Members need to send Katrina names and addresses of lay people to invite to the summit.

New Business/Open Discussion: 2006 Plans

Ideas discussed included:

- The importance of being very concrete in terms of what we want to do.
- Since many of the risk factors for preterm birth can only be modified before pregnancy, there was discussion about increasing preconceptional efforts to reduce risk.
- Getting prematurity on the agenda for fall public health conferences.
- Training health department staff about prematurity using videoconferences or TRAIN.
- Including more specific information about prematurity in the Public Health Practice Reference.
- There is a need for free materials about signs and symptoms of premature labor and a fact sheet about prematurity. It would be good to have the resources available online.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned shortly after 1:00.

Next Meeting Date: September 22, 2005

All meetings to be held at the State Lab Building in Frankfort, KY
Eastern Time: 11:00-1:00PM

To Do List:

- Report folic acid and/or prematurity activities by email or fax to Susan Brown. The reporting forms are on www.kfap.org.
- Send Diane information, pictures (hard copy or email files), and any educational materials that can be added to the website:
Dianej.sprowl@ky.gov
Barren River District Health Department
PO Box 1157
Bowling Green, KY 42102-1157
270-781-8039 Ext. 154
- If you have developed or know of free educational materials about folic acid or prematurity, send ordering information or hard copy to Diane Sprowl to put on the website.
- Send Katrina Thompson names and addresses of lay people to invite to the prematurity summit:
KAdams-Thompson@marchofdimes.com
March of Dimes
462 East High Street
Lexington, KY 40502
Fax (859) 246-0621