

**NEW YORK PREMATURE INFANT  
HEALTH NETWORK**

**Association of Perinatal Networks  
Community Cradle**

November 15, 2011

Albany, New York

## IN ATTENDANCE

- Crystal Davis – CEO-WIC
- Melissa Sacco – CEO-WIC
- Debra Wood – ACHB
- Kathryn Babendreier – Parsons EHS
- Lisa Brate – Parsons EHS
- Jane Lanusse – NNP AMC
- Nikki Thompson – CEO Babies in Waiting
- Xiomara Contreras – Healthy Families Albany County at Parsons
- Denise Legree – Healthy Families
- Ricardo Rhymauns – Healthy Families
- Jennifer Sondermann – Healthy Families
- Callie Moorehead – Healthy Families
- Allison Lattin – United Way GCR
- Victoria Proper – Hope House
- Lisa Damiano – Albany County EI
- Shelyan Madera – Community Health Worker Program, ACDH
- Audrey Baird – ACDH
- Erica Lovrin - CEA
- Dr. Phillip Pan – Ellis Medicine –Bellevue Women’s Care Center
- Lucy Pulitzer – [lucy@communitycradle.org](mailto:lucy@communitycradle.org)
- Amanda Mulhern – [amanda@communitycradle.org](mailto:amanda@communitycradle.org)
- Kaitlin Drouin – Association of Perinatal Networks, Program Coordinator – [kdrouin@associationofperinatalnetworks.org](mailto:kdrouin@associationofperinatalnetworks.org)

## MEETING NOTES

Below is an overview of key messages and comments during the meeting.

- ***APN and New York State PIHN Presentation*** – Kaitlin Drouin, APN Program Coordinator
  - ∴ The Association of Perinatal Networks (APN) is an umbrella organization to the 17 regional perinatal networks. The APN focuses its efforts on statewide issues and supporting the work of each of the 17 individual Networks. The local Networks strive to make positive change in health outcomes for women, infants and families. The Networks cover different areas of the state and programs vary, however the ultimate goal of improving maternal-child health is the same for all Networks.
  - ∴ The NYS Premature Infant Health Network (PIHN) began in 2007. Meetings were held in both Albany and New York City. In 2010, the PIHN transitioned to the Association of Perinatal Networks (APN).
  - ∴ The PIHN brings together community and health organizations, healthcare providers and parents to increase quality healthcare access and awareness around premature infant issues faced both in the NICU and when care begins at home.

∴ The APN wants to be a sounding board to discuss issues of prematurity, we want to compare and contrast available services for families and caregivers of premature infants and we want to bring the issue of prematurity to the forefront in NYS.

∴ PIHN Objectives:

- Put a spotlight on the ongoing unique health issues premature infants and their caregivers face.
- Increase access to resources and support for the ongoing care of premature infants and their families.
- Raise awareness and create better standards for the ongoing care and needs of premature infants and their families/caregivers.

• 2010 PIHN Meeting Details

- Last year, the PIHN meetings brought together parents and caregivers of premature infants to share their experiences and concerns, and to give recommendations to improve services.
- 18 total meetings were held, at which statistics, and financial and health implications were discussed.
- Statewide obstacles included not knowing how to advocate for preemies, difficulty balancing the NICU with home life, preparing for discharge, emotional distress, financial burden, losing the support of NICU staff when moving the baby home, transportation to the hospital or doctors appointments, lack of community support, and a need for a directory of available services.
- Suggestions to aid these problems included making more resources available in the NICU, providing family rooms, creating a NICU report card, making breast pumps available, and providing things like food vouchers or parking passes.
- In your area, the following needs were identified:
  - ∴ Parents need help learning how to advocate
  - ∴ Parent consultant to help other parents
  - ∴ The use of visiting nurses and county nurses should be encouraged more
  - ∴ Medically sensitive daycare facility

• 2011 PIHN Actions

- ∴ A Premie E-memo has been created to inform participants on recent developments, legislation, resources and experiences related to premature infant health. This will also allow participants to keep in touch with the APN for questions, concerns, or requests.
- ∴ As a first step in establishing parent support, a NICU survey has been created and will be distributed this year to all hospitals with a NICU in New York State. The results of this survey will be used to identify target areas with incomplete support and give the PIHN direction in their future plans to establish a support model.

∴ The PIHN continues to build a statewide network of parents and professionals through a set of meetings.

- Resources

- Lucy Pulitzer and Amanda Mulhern gave a brief summary of Community Cradle services.
- Online Resources:
  - [Parent to Parent - Health Care Notebook](#)
  - [Hand to Hold](#)
  - [NPA Support Search](#)
  - [www.Prematurity.org](http://www.Prematurity.org)

- ***Roundtable Discussion on Envisioning Changes in Resources and Support***

- *Training and Mentors.* The group discussion centered around the idea of creating a training program for mentors and Family Social Workers on discharge support and the specific needs of premature infants and their families. Community Cradle proposed creating this training, and recruiting mentors who could be referred by FSWs and would have both professional and personal experience. Parents with infants still in the NICU could be referred to a mentor by the unit's social worker/case worker and provide both phone support and in person support. The support would begin during the last days before discharge and continue throughout the initial period of adjustment after discharge. Mentors would initiate contact, but could also be contacted by the parent for questions. Mentors would give appropriate advice for the specific family and the time period. The mentors could work in conjunction with the FSWs to serve the parent after discharge.
- *Cultural Competency Training.* Lucy Pulitzer mentioned the cultural competency training offered by Community Cradle and several attendees were interested, including Dr. Phillip Pan. Lucy asked for Dr. Pan to give her three dates that may be acceptable for staff training at Bellvue and/or Albany Medical, and Community Cradle could offer a brief cultural competency training session including lunch.

- ***APN: New York State PIHN Presentation*** – Kaitlin Drouin, APN Program Coordinator

- Recent State Legislation
  - The Public Health Law in NYS was amended as of January of 2011 by adding a new section to S2803-t. This amendment includes the following:
    - Any hospital providing birthing services must provide written, educational material about the complications, care and support involved in having a premature infant (before 37 weeks). The information will include:
      - Unique health issues to premies (developmental issues, nutritional challenges, infection, chronic lung disease, vision and hearing impairment, breathing problems, feeding, body temperature, jaundice, hyperactivity, infant mortality, and long-term learning complications)

- Care needs of premature infants including screenings and monitoring, and what healthcare services are available
  - Education on infectious disease and preventative measures for common infections in premature infants
  - Community resources to help families care for and support their preemie
- Bill Number S4219 was passed in 2010 in order to prevent the NYS Department of Health from reducing the reimbursement rates for providers who provide services under the Early Intervention Program.
- Recent Federal Legislation
  - In September 2010, the PREEMIE Act was introduced for reauthorization to continue and enhance federal support for research into the causes and prevention of premature birth and to reduce infant mortality caused by prematurity.
    - Expands the scope of work supported by the National Institutes of Health, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and Health Resources and Services Administration to include new initiatives. This bill was last acted upon when it was referred to the committee of Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions.
  - In July of 2009, the Nationally Enhancing the Wellbeing of Babies through Outreach and Research Now Act was introduced.
    - Its purpose is to authorize funding for the creation and implementation of infant mortality pilot programs in standard metropolitan areas with high rates of infant mortality. This bill has passed the House and is entering the Senate as of Sept. 2010.
  - In June 2011, the Maximizing Optimal Maternity Services for the 21st Century Bill was introduced.
    - It promotes optimal maternity outcomes by making evidence-based maternity care a national priority.
- Late Preterm Infant Guidelines
  - Late preterm infants are premature infants born between 34 and 37 weeks, and account for 75% of all prematurity in the U.S.
  - The National Perinatal Association held a summit in 2010, bringing together leaders of prominent nation-wide organizations to create a set of evidence-based guidelines to be used in the care of late preterm infants across disciplines and across the nation.
  - A steering committee was formed, and the guidelines are currently in the process of being published.
  - The APN hopes to partner with the NPA once these guidelines are released to help universalize these guidelines.

○ *Next Steps*

- ∴ Conduct Premature Infant Health Network meetings throughout NYS and facilitate sharing and support for caregivers and parents of premature infants.
- ∴ Communicate resources and findings to meeting attendees.
- ∴ Signing up attendees for the Premie E-memo.
- ∴ Sending out the powerpoint and notes from the meeting.
- ∴ Collaborating with the NPA to promote late preterm infant guidelines.
- ∴ Sending out the NICU survey to identify gaps in support services.