



Racine Kenosha Community Action

Helping People. Changing Lives.

Healthy Birth Outcomes (HBO) Highlights

Racine Kenosha Community Action Agency, Inc. (RKCAA), in partnership with the Greater Racine Collaborative for Healthy Birth Outcomes (GRC4HBO), seeks to improve birth outcomes in the African American community. GRC4HBO works to support families and make sure that babies survive and thrive in our community through projects such as the Racine Lifecourse Initiative for Healthy Families (LIHF). Through this effort, RKCAA hosted four events to connect the community to resources and training.



The Fifth Annual Baby Expo provided a “one stop shop” experience, connecting families to community services. The event took place on Saturday, September 30, 2017 at Gateway Technical College-Racine campus. Featured speakers included Dr. Karen Robinson, PhD, CNM, Marquette University, Sharmain Harris, RKCAA Kenosha WIC, Amanda Kotowski, APN, Children’s Hospital, and Jerrilyn Johnson, PA-C. The event also included Racine’s own Genie Webb, author of Princess Lydi and Her Baby Brother.



Over 200 community residents attended, 38 individuals volunteered, and 26 vendors, such as the Birthing Project USA, Black Infant Health and the Racine Home Visitation Network, were available to answer questions for families with newborns. “This year we saw the most participation ever!” said Samantha J. Perry, Project Manager for the Collaborative. “We would not have been able to pull this off without the help of our planning committee, volunteers, vendors, and sponsors/supporters.”



From July 24-28, 2017, RKCAA hosted a Certified Lactation Counselor (CLC) Training facilitated by Healthy Children Project, Inc. from East Sandwich, MA. Individuals who gained certification are now able to provide support to breastfeeding families in the community. This training was coordinated in an effort to increase breastfeeding rates, which will also improve infant health. Thirty-six individuals attended the training.



The Adolescent Health Project works within the community promoting public awareness, ensuring adolescents receive the necessary services that will aid them in becoming responsible citizens; especially regarding their reproductive health. Last year, along with our partners, the Get Yourself Tested (GYT) initiative tested 75 individuals for sexually transmitted diseases and sexually transmitted infections (STD/STIs). This year, RKCAA and the Dr. John Bryant Community

Center sponsored a health fair for teens called “Healthy Teen Fair”. This was the first event where nearly 100 people (teens and adults) attended and five teen service vendors provided information. The Adolescent Health Project continues to promote an increase in community involvement where community centers, schools and faith-based organizations plan and implement youth related services. This project utilizes a multi-faceted approach and teens are encouraged to “Think B 4 U Do It...It Is a lot More to It”. This applies to health and risky behaviors.



Visit our website www.rkcaa.org or www.healthybabiesracine.org for more information on how to get involved with the work of the Collaborative.

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