



Forsyth County Infant Mortality Reduction Coalition News

2010 Spring Luncheon Success Story



The 2010 Spring Luncheon Keynote speaker was Alvina Long-Valentin (pictured above with Coalition Director and Vice-Chair) from the Women's Health Branch at NC Division of Public Health. Ms. Long-Valentin directs the NC Preconception Health Leadership Team and shared her expertise and knowledge about state and national Preconception Health Initiatives.

On May 6, 2010 at First Christian Church, Forsyth County Infant Mortality Reduction Coalition, a working group of the Healthy Community Coalition, held its 2010 Spring Luncheon. Attendees included Coalition members and community partners. Representatives included individuals from health-care, government, media, community agencies, public health and academic institutions.



Candis and Baby Deztini Life Journey

Celebrate Success !

Ms. Candis Boykins is a local mom who lost several infants before having Baby Deztini. Her health care provider recommended she try 17P, a progesterone medication that can reduce prematurity up to 30% in some women. Ms. Boykins bravely shared her story of infant loss and the happiness that Baby Deztini Life Journey has brought into her life. Candis spoke about the difference 17P made in her life. See the 2009 Forsyth County Infant Mortality Report for the full story at www.HelpOurBabies.org



Members of the Coalition (above) helped raise awareness about high infant mortality in Forsyth County by standing with 61 teddy bears. Each teddy bear represented a baby lost during 2008. Robert Parker, Coalition Chair, helped the audience understand that 61 babies would have filled two kindergarten classrooms.

Looking Back

The Coalition celebrated the success of its most recent community initiative *17P to Prevent Repeat Preterm Birth* by recognizing the 17P Advisory Board, local elected officials, healthcare providers, and researchers leading the fight against infant mortality.



In October 2009, the Coalition assisted in obtaining a grant for a CDC funded conference *Promoting Healthy Birth Outcomes—Translating Research into Best Practices to Promote Preconception Health and Prevent Preterm Birth*. This conference brought together state and national experts on preconception health. Speakers and breakout sessions helped the community learn more about the role of primary prevention strategies that improve a woman's health prior to pregnancy to reduce prematurity and low birth weight.

What's Next ?

The Coalition has been planning its new initiative *Pregnancy is Too Late -Making the Case for Preconception Health*. Coalition goals for 2010-2012 align with the NC Strategic Plan on Preconception Health to include:

- Educational outreach to health care providers
- Educational outreach to women of childbearing age
- Increasing food access in low-wealth communities
- Raising awareness about the impact of poverty upon infant mortality

What Can You Do About Infant Mortality ?

~ Infant Mortality is a Community Issue ~
 ~ Infant Mortality Needs a Community Solution ~
Become the Solution !

Call Forsyth County Infant Mortality Reduction Coalition

336-703-3260

