

## HEALTHY BIRTH OUTCOMES COALITION

Under the leadership of Public Health of Madison and Dane County, a team of people associated with community organizations working in Dane County community came together. Their goal was to help identify what may have contributed to the improvement in African American birth outcomes and how to ensure this trend is sustained. The team first met in September of 2008, and refers to itself, "Healthy Beginnings Dane County." The team consists of members from such organizations as the Dane County Department of Human Services, Planned Parenthood of Wisconsin, St. Mary's Hospital, Unity Health Insurance, Dane County Parent Council, and the UW School of Medicine & Public Health, Center for Women's Health Research.

The focus of the Dane County team has been to maintain the positive birth outcomes in Dane County by:

- 1) Educating the public on these outcomes
- 2) Disseminating information on best practice strategies and programs on this topic, some which currently exist locally
- 3) Forming a Healthy Birth Outcomes Coalition that will focus on aligning efforts across systems and organizations to sustain these positive outcomes

The Healthy Beginnings Dane County Team held the Dane County Forum on Healthy Birth Outcomes September 10, 2009 at the South Madison Boys and Girls Club. Over 140 community members attended this forum and contributed valuable input that will help advise the Healthy Birth Outcomes Coalition.

The first meeting of the Healthy Birth Outcomes Coalition will be Thursday, November 5, 8:30 to 10 a.m. at the Neighborhood House, 29 South Mills Street Madison, WI. This meeting is open to all.

For more Coalition information, please contact Daniel Stattleman Scanlan, Public Health Madison and Dane County Nursing Supervisor, 608-243-0404 or e-mail [dstattelman-scanlan@publichealthmdc.com](mailto:dstattelman-scanlan@publichealthmdc.com)