



*Promoting Healthy Births and Healthy Families*

# *Annual Report*

## *2014-2015*

1000 Cornelia Street 2nd Floor  
Utica, NY 13502  
Telephone: (315) 732-4657  
Toll Free: (877) 267-6193  
Fax: (315) 732-5640  
info@newfamily.org  
<http://www.newfamily.org>

# *About the Network*

Mohawk Valley Perinatal Network, Inc. is a 501(c)3, not-for-profit organization that has been serving families in Herkimer and Oneida Counties since 1996, when the Perinatal Network was formed through the collaborative effort of dedicated professionals concerned with improving the perinatal health of women throughout the Mohawk Valley. The Perinatal Network works with health and human service professionals and consumers to improve the overall health of communities in the Mohawk Valley. The mission of Mohawk Valley Perinatal Network is to improve birth outcomes and maternal, child and family health, facilitate collaboration among providers and community organizations and advocate for change. The Perinatal Network accomplishes this through assessment of community needs, health and human service provider education, perinatal data updates, consumer education and referral, Navigator services for the health insurance Marketplace, and outreach efforts to encourage healthy behaviors and increase utilization of health insurance programs. While the Network is concerned with improving birth outcomes for all women and their families, it specifically targets women of low income, in rural areas, the African American community, immigrants and refugees, and adolescents due to the unique barriers faced by women in these groups.

We are one of the only organizations in our community to serve as a hub for perinatal information and services for both providers and consumers, providing training and education, making connections, assessing and addressing trends and issues, and assuring access to care for women, children and families.

The Network is primarily funded by the New York State Department of Health, Division of Family Health and Office of Health Insurance Programs. Our Board of Directors is representative of human service providers, health services providers, educational institutions, community organizations, business professionals and consumers from Oneida and Herkimer Counties.

# *Board of Directors & Staff*

## **Board of Directors**

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*Lynne Gates*  
Health Insurance Programs Coordinator

*Kayleigh Riesel*  
Perinatal Program Associate

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Health Benefits Specialist

*Gerda Mortelette*  
Small Business Specialist

*Filomena Facciolo*  
Health Benefits Navigator

*Patricia Hamer*  
Program Support Specialist

# *Perinatal Programs*

Through the Maternal and Infant Community Health Collaborative (MICHC) initiative, Mohawk Valley Perinatal Network is working to improve maternal and infant health outcomes for high-need, low income women and their families. Key priority outcomes include reducing: Preterm Births, Low Birth Weight, Infant Mortality, and Maternal Mortality.

The Perinatal Network is collaborating with community partners to implement strategies to:

- Find and engage high-need women and their families in health insurance, health care and other needed community services, such as mental health, substance abuse, and domestic violence;
- Assess the woman's needs and make referrals to services to address those needs;
- Coordinate services across community programs; and
- Promote opportunities for women and families to engage in healthy behaviors.

MICHC strategies and activities address maternal and infant health behaviors across the life course and at multiple levels, including:

- Individual/Family: using Community Health Workers to assist women and their families to access needed health and social services.
- Community: working to improve community conditions and opportunities that make it easier for people to make healthy choices.
- Organizational: working with health and social service agencies and other community organizations to promote healthy behaviors and improve access to resources and services.

The Perinatal Network reached 247 health and human service providers through small and large group presentations between July 2014 and June 2015. Provider education topics included: safe infant sleep, oral health, Cavity Free Kids curriculum, Shaken Baby Syndrome, perinatal mood and anxiety disorders, lactation support in the workplace, breastfeeding friendly childcare, exclusive breastfeeding postpartum.

The Perinatal Network, in partnership with the Community Health Workers employed by the Neighborhood Center, reached 166 consumers through individual services, and 22 consumers through group presentations. The Community Health Workers assisted women and their families to access needed health and social services, and provided information on women's health, pregnancy health, and infant health and safety.

# *Health Insurance Programs*

Mohawk Valley Perinatal Network is a lead agency for the Navigator program in Oneida and Madison Counties, funded by New York State Department of Health to provide high-quality enrollment assistance across our region.

The Perinatal Network can:

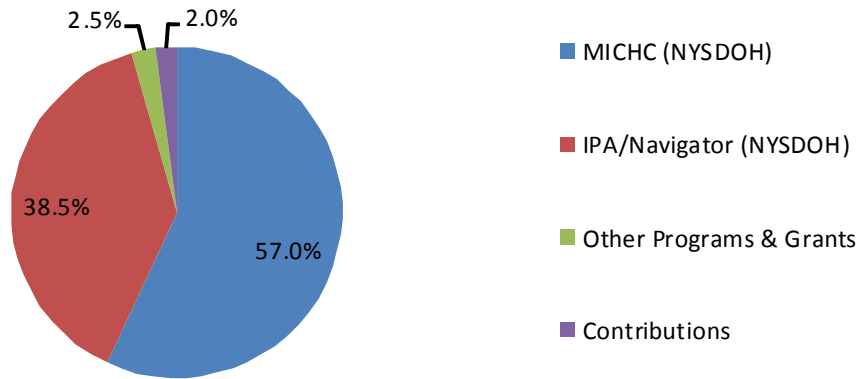
- provide in-person assistance to those applying for health insurance coverage at the time of initial application and at annual renewal;
- offer information on the types of health insurance programs available through the NY State of Health Marketplace;
- provide application assistance for private and public health insurance programs and advance premium tax credits and cost-sharing reductions;
- refer consumers to other organizations for help with grievances, complaints or questions regarding health coverage or a determination related to coverage; and
- supply information in a fair and impartial manner which is culturally and linguistically appropriate, and disability accessible, including individuals with limited English proficiency.

Perinatal Network staff completed 2,210 applications for health insurance between July 2014 and June 2015, assisting 2,971 individuals to apply for health insurance. This year the Perinatal Network served more consumers speaking a language other than English than ever before, thanks to partnerships with Multicultural Association for Medical Interpreters, Ocean Bridge Services, Mohawk Valley Resource Center for Refugees, and the Mohawk Valley Latino Association.

We offered appointments in Rome, Utica, Oneida, Canastota, Morrisville, Waterville, Barneveld, Boonville, and West Winfield. The Perinatal Network partners with the Mary Rose Clinic, Oneida County Probation, and local substance abuse treatment centers to ensure that some of the most vulnerable individuals and families can access Navigators to apply for health insurance.

# Financials

## Support and Revenue



## Functional Expenses

