



# Prince George's Healthcare Action Coalition

## Infant Mortality Work Group

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Meets once each month at 1701 McCormick Drive, Largo, Maryland.

Co-Chair is Marie Pokraka, Maryland National Capital Area Chapter Director, March of Dimes.

### Background

**Prince George's Healthcare Action Coalition (PGHAC)** serves as a community health network and forum for collaboration to advance the state of health care in Prince George's County. This community powered coalition represents over 70 community organizations, health care providers and stakeholders in community health. The **Infant Mortality Work Group** consists of about 28 members and represents roughly 13 various community-based, health-oriented organizations in Prince George's County.

The Coalition was formed under the leadership of Prince George's County Health Department (PGCHD), with County Health Officer Pamela Creekmur serving as Chairwoman, in order to move the county towards reaching its goals as outlined in the [Prince George's County Health Improvement Plan, 2011-2014](#).

### Strategies, Goals and Accomplishments

The Infant Work Group operates under Priority 3 of the Local Health Action Plan for 2011-2014 in Prince George's County, to "improve reproductive health care and birth outcomes for women in Prince George's County, particularly among African American women." As such, the Work Group has selected the following County Outcome Objective to work towards achieving each year:

- (1) Reduce infant deaths;
- (2) Reduce low birth weights and very low birth weights; and
- (3) Increase the proportion of pregnant women who receive prenatal care beginning in the first trimester.

In 2014, the work group accomplished significant progress on its goals in the following areas:

- Producing an up-to-date report on infant mortality/low birth weight rates in the county
- Implemented a Community Health Worker project to distribute informational materials to pregnant women
- Reprinted and distributed pregnancy help cards in English/Spanish

In 2015, the work group's goals are:

- Produce an Infant Mortality report for up-to-date data analysis.
- Plan 3 symposium-baby showers in Prince George's County.
- Use the March of Dimes baby bus.