

HEALTHY VIEWS Newsletter

A Publication of City of Vineland -- Department of Health, Teen Pregnancy Sub-Committee

Volume 1, Number 1

June/July 2009

Teen Pregnancy:

A Big Problem for Cumberland County

Picture a pregnant teenage girl...I see two children at risk: A young woman who will probably never know her worth, form stable relationships, complete her education, own a home. And a second child, at risk for preterm birth, low birth weight, premature death, infant mortality, SIDS. If female, she has a 66% chance becoming a teen mother herself. This happens in Cumberland County more often than anywhere else in NJ. We must do better for our children.

S.A.F.E. grew out of the common mission of South Jersey Health Care System And Community Health Care, Inc. Through our prenatal programs, it became obvious that teen pregnancy was associated with STDs, pre-term birth and low birth weight babies. Directed by a Community Advisory Board, S.A.F.E. is composed of professionals from schools, healthcare and social service organizations. High-risk sexual behavior and pregnancy injure adolescents, compromise the individual's physical and psychological health, education, preparation for financial independence and capacity to establish stable relationships. Parents, educators, elected officials and healthcare providers must collaborate to help teens delay the initiation of sexual activity and/or use effective contraception. Self-esteem programs and expanded Health Science curricula are offered covering abstinence and contraception; Parents are enlisted and empowered to discourage adolescent pregnancy and promote healthy teen sexuality.

Successful Teen Pregnancy Programs offer healthcare and contraceptive services. S.A.F.E. provides accessible, confidential healthcare to the high school campus, including testing and treatment for STD's, pregnancy

tests, and contraception. Incomplete care accomplishes only part of our objectives and sends an ambiguous message to our adolescents. Our message must be clear: behave responsibly regarding your sexuality, and protect yourself against both pregnancy and STDs.

Michele Torchia M.D., F.A.C.O.G.

Director of Women's Health Service, Community HealthCare

Parent Workshop Series Kicks Off at Carl Arthur Center



The first of a series of parent workshops, titled "Parents Empowered", was held in May at the Carl Arthur Center. Focused on parents and topics of interest to them regarding their teenage children, this is the first of several workshops that are scheduled throughout the year. Pictured here are (from left) George Sartorio, Health Officer, Vineland Health Dept.; Marge Pollock, SJ Healthcare; Oscar Brooks, New Visions; Dr. Michele Torchia; and Brandi Garcia, SODAT. For more information on upcoming workshops or to volunteer on a committee, call (856) 794-4131 or visit www.vldhealth.org

FOR INFORMATION ON COMMUNITY-BASED SERVICES VISIT WWW.SAFETEEN4.US OR CALL (856) 451-4700.



City of Vineland New Jersey
Health Department