

**HEALTHY MOTHERS, HEALTHY BABIES
Coalition of Broward County, Inc.**



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 4, 2009

CONTACT: AMANDA MARTIN

(964)765-0550 Ext. 324

AMartin@HMHBBroward.org

The MAHOGANY Project aims to reduce Fetal & Infant Deaths in 33311

As a response to the Pediatric Autopsy Project Report, a collaboration between Children's Services Council of Broward County, The Broward County Health Department, and Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies Coalition of Broward County Inc, proposed to create a project aimed at reducing infant mortality in the 33311 Zip Code. This geographic area had the highest rate of fetal and infant deaths in all of Broward County. Even more alarming, it was determined that black babies die at a rate more than 3 times that of white babies in Broward County.

The MAHOGANY Project aims to reduce these shocking statistics, and provide an opportunity for women in the 33311 zip code to have successful birth outcomes, and healthy babies. The project will target pregnant African-America, Haitian and Hispanic women and teens who have risk factors for poor pregnancy outcomes, including teen pregnancy, limited access to prenatal or pediatric care, no family support, previous fetal/infant death, language/cultural barriers, lack of income, food or shelter and psychosocial risks such as history of late or no prenatal care, single parent household, medical risks, psychosocial stressors, serious family dysfunction, domestic violence or low educational achievement.

Factors to identify women to be enrolled in the MAHOGANY project will be in the first or second trimester of pregnancy (or up to 24 weeks gestation), reside in the 33311 zip code, Ages 20-30, Low-income, at or below 185% of Federal Poverty guidelines, lack of family support, and other problems or conditions that indicate higher medical and psychosocial risks.

Participants of the program will receive an individualized psychosocial and medical risk assessment to identify various risks to a successful birth outcome, assistance with receiving access to prenatal & pediatric care, health education, nutrition education, group counseling sessions and intensive case management to develop intensive, trusting one-on-one relationships between case managers through the first year of the child's life. Additionally, Case Managers will maintain an open communication with medical providers to ensure a continuum of care and reduce fetal & infant mortality.

Services will be offered primarily in the homes of the individual participants in the 33311, but case managers will operate from donated office space at Mount Olive Development Corp, 400 NW 9th Avenue, Fort Lauderdale, 33311.

Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies Coalition of Broward County, Inc. is a not-for-profit, community-based 501 (c) (3) organization whose mission is to reduce infant deaths by providing resources and education to pregnant women, parents and their families. Since 1987, Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies Coalition of Broward County has provided access to prenatal care, education, advocacy and public awareness for all families. Through these initiatives we are encouraging Broward County to deliver healthy babies and enriching the lives of families by improving parent-child relationships.

###