

Great Baby Beginnings

August 2018



Message from CEO LuAnne Brown, RN



Happy Summer from Buffalo Prenatal Perinatal Network! As always the agency has had a busy several months and below are some of the highlights.

THANK YOU to several donors/funders for recent awards to the agency!

The Rotary Club of the Buffalo Niagara Medical Campus awarded us \$1000 to be used for pack and plays for our new Cribs for Kids Program.



The Unitarian Universalist Church of Hamburg donated to the agency from their monthly Potluck dinner.



Diane Artieri for a wonderful furniture donation which allowed us to furnish apartments for several of our clients.

We are currently partnered with Dr. Mickey Sperlich from SUNY at Buffalo for the Survivor Mom Program. 8 of our staff underwent a 2 day training to implement the model which works with women who have had trauma in their past which can lead to PTSD, low birth weight infants, and depression. It is the first and only PTSD—specific intervention created for the perinatal period. There is a 10 module self-study workbook provided for each mom and 10 30-minute “tutoring” sessions provided by our staff. It helps mother strategize about preventing maltreatment and trauma for their children. The project is expected to conclude in November—we are excited to partner with Dr. Sperlich in this innovative project.

Our educational forums with our partner March of Dimes continue as part of the Healthy Babies are Worth the Wait initiative. In April Mary Travers-Murphy presented from the Family Justice Center to the group on the issue of domestic violence. The Neighborhood Health Center presented in June on several of their programs including interconception care, medication assisted treatment and screening brief intervention referral treatment.

COMMUNITY FORUM



We are appreciative for our continuing support from the United Way Community Baby Shower. The shower this year was sponsored by Oishei Children's Hospital and we were the recipient of over 150 baby packages which included a sleep sack, thermometer, book, diapers and wipes. One of our program participants Danielle Gilbert spoke at the kickoff press conference and related the importance of the packet and the Community Health Worker program in helping with her first child.

We received quite a bit of media exposure from the baby shower as well as my appearance on the United Way radio show and the Millennium Health Matters radio show with Rita Hubbard-Robinson.

Our Responsible Fatherhood program funded by the Oishei Foundation is just wrapping up its first 13 week session utilizing the Nurturing Fathers Curriculum facilitated by Antoine Johnson, Fatherhood Coordinator. The program was recently featured in an article by Rod Watson in the Buffalo News. Antoine also received a grant from the Health Foundation of Western and Central New York to fund program materials and conference attendance. The next series will be scheduled in the next few months.



Healthy Families was under the microscope having both their 5 year credentialing visit and their annual visit from OCFS. Kudos to Annmarie Correa and her entire staff for always showcasing their program so well!

—To be continued

Message from CEO LuAnne Brown, RN

To Be Continued:

Grants Update-we have moved to the next level for 2 grants we applied for. The Wilson Foundation in conjunction with KaBOOM provides funds for play areas . We have requested funds to convert part of our Activities Room into a play area as well some graphic art on the outside of the building. The other grant is the Communities Thrive challenge funded by the Chan Zuckerberg Foundation to further grow our Fatherhood program.



On June 18th a staff retreat was held at Beaver Hollow and included presentations by Dr. Robert Perelli who spoke on Family Systems Theory, Lori Miller on professional excellence and Antoine Johnson who presented an overview on the Fatherhood Program. It was a nice change for the staff to be offsite and they really enjoyed the presentations.



BPPN was acknowledged in a recent research article authored by Dr. Xiaozhong Wen et al focused on smoking cessation during pregnancy in which some of our clients participated.



4 of our staff attended a 3 day doula training program in Cleveland which increased the number of staff trained to 6. We also had 3 staff attend the WNY Perinatal Bereavement conference and who will now serve as resources for the staff in the event of a perinatal loss.



An active shooter drill and a fire drill will be conducted this summer in our continuing focus on safety for our employees and clients.

We are pleased to have an intern from Daemen this summer, Chantazia Bronson .Chantazia is becoming acquainted with our agency and has taken on special projects to complete during her time with us. Welcome Shay!

Our contract with Get Set ended in June and was a wonderful opportunity for our agency. Many thanks to the Health Foundation of Western and Central New York who funded our participation in the program. We completed our capacity building plan, developed our value proposition, facilitated training for both management and staff, and revamped our marketing materials. Many thanks to our partners and organizational development consultants Laurie Allan and Carl Herrgesell-they were a pleasure to work with!



With all the good news we have had we also unfortunately received news that our MICH Community Health Worker program was being cut 8.2% as well as elimination of our COLA. The program has had to make adjustments for this cut but we will continue the important work the Community Health Worker program performs in the community with women at risk.

We have been approached by the Junior League to serve as their impact agency for 2018-2019. They are interested in assisting us with projects including Great Baby Beginnings, holiday events, Breastfeeding Walk, and support groups. We are excited about this collaboration with such a great organization!



We were chosen by the Department of Health as one of the 7 NYS sites which will host a listening session with NYS Health Commissioner Dr. Howard Zucker around the topic of Maternal Mortality. This issue is a priority of Governor Cuomo's due to the rates in NYS especially among African American women. He is implementing a Taskforce, a Maternal Mortality Review Board, a best practice summit for OB/Gyns, a pilot expansion of Medicaid coverage for doulas, support of Centering Pregnancy projects, continuing medical education and an expansion of the NYS Perinatal Quality Collaborative. The forum will most likely be held by the end of summer and 40 consumers will be invited to share their thoughts on their prenatal care, birth experience and postpartum period. We will be partnering with other agencies to assist us in recruiting clients or serving as facilitators or scribes. We are honored to have been selected for this opportunity and look forward to sharing our experience and that of the women in our community with the Commissioner.



At our Annual Board Meeting we were sad to see some of our members leave the Board including Cortland Purks, Erin Klass, Cheryl Frieling, Renee Cadzow and our Board Chair, Karen Blount. We hope many of them will return in the future! We were pleased to have 4 new members join us: Heidi Roemer, Barb Surace, Patty Kinz and Deborah Ortiz. Welcome!





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THE 9th ANNUAL COMMUNITY BABY SHOWER



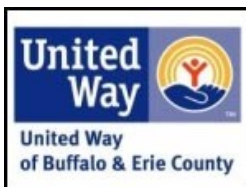


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COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



LuAnn Brown, CEO and Suzette O'Brian from United Way attended a Community Baby Shower hosted by Junior League New Member class on Wednesday, April 11th to collect essential baby items to help at-risk mothers through the United Way.



Buffalo Prenatal-Perinatal Network, Inc. is a not-for-profit organization that has been in operation for 33 years. The overall mission of the organization is to coordinate and collaborate with key stakeholders in Erie County/City of Buffalo, to increase access to and utilization of preconception, prenatal, perinatal and postpartum health care services in the community. The agency and its programs work within the community to help identify problems of adequacy, acceptability and accessibility in the delivery of these services, especially to those who are in high-need; to seek support for implementation of programs/services that help attain the agency mission; promote coordination between service providers who serve similar consumers/clients; and to provide informational and educational activities for providers and consumers, to help enable improved birth outcomes for the targeted population.

The programs operated by Buffalo Prenatal focus on improving maternal and infant health outcomes for high need women and their families, and to help reduce racial and ethnic disparities in those outcomes. Programs operated by Buffalo Prenatal include a New York State Department of Health Maternal Infant Community Health Collaborative (MICHIC), a Healthy Families New York Program (also known as the Buffalo Home Visiting Program).



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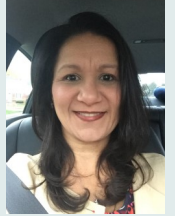
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Anabel Lyons
Program Coordinator
Home Visiting Program



Q: Welcome back, Anabel! Please tell us what your background is and your prior working experience?

A: I had my Associate Degree in Child Care at ECC and Bachelor Degree at Buffalo State College. I had worked at BPPN from 1995 to 2012. I started as Family Support Worker, then Assessment Worker and was promoted as Assessment Worker Supervisor. I left the company because I need some time to be with my family, and now I am back. I am so glad that I am back to the big Family.

Q: What's your current hired position and what's your major role here at the program?

A: I was hired in January, 2018. My new position is Program Coordinator. My main job here is to assist the Program Director AnnMarie Correa to run the program, monitor overall program quality assurance and improvements.

Q: Have you seen any changes at BPPN since you came back?

A: Yes, I have. Starting from my interview process, I could feel more relaxed, peaceful and welcomed. With the new CEO of company on board, I can see the staff being more supported. The staff are more involved, engaged and willing to follow the policy and procedure. It has better flow now in communication between programs and within individual program. The whole company works as One Team. The staff feel that they are active members of the company. It is very helpful and supportive to my new position that I can go to any staff or management if I have questions or concerns or need help with. I can see a lot of team work at different levels within the agency. It is great to see some old friends who have worked at BPPN for many many years and are still here. At the same time, I see a lot of new faces. It is a good mix. I am so glad to see the families we have served coming back for our services for their next generations. The impact we made in their lives is phenomenal. I truly believe our company mission. The families in our community really need our help, support and guidance.

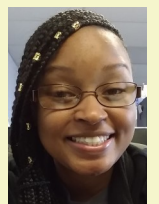
Q: Is there any challenging issue or situation you have to deal with since you came back?

A: No, I don't think so. Of course with the new role, there are a lot of adjustments. It is the part of process as being new here again. But everything about my experience of coming back to BPPN is positive.

Q: Please describe your experience of coming back in a sentence or two.

A: I feel like that I am picking up where I left off and coming back home.

Justina Callahan
Community Health Worker
MICHHC Program



Q: What's your education background and prior working experience?

A: I graduated from Bryant & Stratton College and got my Associate Degree in Medical Assistant. I have worked in Homecare Service Program for seven years and Assistant Living Program for two years.

Q: What made you want to work at BPPN?

A: I had an internship at an OB/GYN office while I was in college. I got a chance to help pregnant women which really interested me. I really wanted to do more in this field.

Q: What's your case load now and what do you do at this new job?

A: I am currently having 14 cases. I do home visits, make sure that the clients keep their doctor appointments, educate them on breastfeeding, safe sleep and provide transportation to them if needed, etc.

Q: Is there any challenging situation since you got on board?

A: Sometimes it is hard to reach out to my clients. Hopefully when the weather is becoming nicer, it could get easier.

Q: What's your career goal and future plan?

A: I would like to continue working at BPPN. And I would like to go back to school to get my bachelor degree in healthcare.

Q: What do you think about BPPN overall as a company?

A: I like the company. It is a good company. I felt that I was very involved. The manager and coworkers are very nice to me. I like to work here.



WELCOME NEW BOARD MEMBERS

From left to right:
Barb Surace, Patty Kinz, LuAnne Brown
(CEO), Deborah Ortiz and Heidi Roemer



Our 2017 Team Player awards were presented at the May staff meeting including Shaunella Myles-Jones from the MICH program and Cheryl Jordan from Healthy Families. Congratulations Shaunella and Cheryl!

TEAM PLAYER



Graduates from BPPN first Fatherhood Program



Catholic Charities WIC— Chautauqua, Erie & Niagara

Healthy Baby Festivals 2018

Friday, July 27th
11am - 1pm Delaware Park, Buffalo
(Corner of Colvin Ave & Amherst St)



Pack a lunch and join us for:
Prizes and giveaways
Educational resources
Moovin' & Groovin' and Face Painting
Buffalo Zoomobile, Crafts and Games
Meet a special character too!

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CATHOLIC
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***This event is ended!
A Great Success!
We Thank All who made it Happen!***

**The 15th Annual
Great Baby Beginnings Fundraising
Event was successfully held
at Hotel Henry, Downtown Buffalo,
on Wednesday July 18, 2018.**





Buffalo Prenatal-Perinatal Network, Inc.
 THE 15TH ANNUAL
Great Baby Beginnings!
 A Special Thank You To Our Event Sponsors!

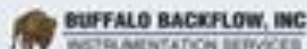
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