



**North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services
Division of Public Health**

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Beverly Eaves Perdue, Governor
Lanier Cansler, Secretary

Jeffrey P. Engel, M.D.
State Health Director

To: North Carolina Perinatal Healthcare Partners

From: Jeffrey P. Engel, MD, State Health Director

Date: October 27, 2009

Re: NC Perinatal Outreach Coordination Program

Due to the state budget crisis, the North Carolina Perinatal Outreach Program has been discontinued. The contracts that supported the program, including staffing of the Perinatal Outreach Coordinators, are terminated effective 10/31/2009. The Division of Public Health regrets having to take this action which is necessitated by the dire economic situation.

The Perinatal Outreach Coordination Program was implemented in 1973 to improve access to perinatal care and quality of care for women and infants. The Perinatal Outreach Coordinators accomplished this through training, consultation, technical assistance, and quality improvement work with primary perinatal and neonatal providers at private offices, rural and community health centers, tertiary centers, and local health departments. The Perinatal Outreach Coordinators ensured that the most up-to-date, "best practice", standards of care educational and clinical techniques were disseminated to all segments of the healthcare community in order to maintain a high level of consistency in clinical practice and referral standards. They have done a tremendous job over the past 30 years in shaping and implementing a perinatal health care program that has been a model for the nation. Their efforts have played a major role in the improvement of birth outcomes over the past 30 years.

The NC Division of Public Health Women's Health Branch is developing a transition plan to address continuing perinatal health needs. In the interim, if there are needs concerning perinatal health, feel free to contact the Women's Health Branch at 919-707-5700.



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