



City of Long Beach
Working Together to Serve

Office of Gerrie Schipske
Councilwoman, Fifth District
Memorandum

R-29

Date: May 13, 2008

To: HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

From Councilwoman Gerrie Schipske, Fifth District *GS*

Subject: **AGENDA ITEM: 2008 Community Baby Shower**

BACKGROUND

In the mid-1990's, as a Registered Nurse Practitioner, I started the "Community Baby Shower" to provide a "basic going-home newborn kit" for low-income mothers to use after they gave birth in our local hospitals. The "newborn kits" were used by the Public Health Nurses at the Department of Health and Human Services, as an incentive for expectant mothers who were in the process of completing a pre-natal care and educational program. This ensures a healthier outcome for their pregnancy.

The community was asked to participate and support the Community Baby Shower in several ways:

- Donation of items for the "new born kit" that included: diapers, diaper bag, baby wipes, bibs, booties, socks, pajamas or gowns, blankets, shirts, and infant hats.
- Financial contribution to Long Beach Cares towards the purchase of these items.
- Help to assemble the newborn kits: Volunteers were invited to help assemble the kits on Friday, May 9th at City of Long Beach Department of Health and Human Services, 2525 Grand Avenue.

The City of Long Beach Department of Health and Human Services, Maternal Child & Adolescent Health (MCAH) Programs provide a variety of services to the maternal child population in the city. Please review the attached list that describes these outstanding programs.

RECOMMENDATION

Request the Mayor and City Council to receive and file a report on the 2008 Community Baby Shower.

Attachment: Letter from Department of Health and Human Services



CITY OF LONG BEACH

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

2525 GRAND AVENUE • LONG BEACH, CALIFORNIA 90815 • (562) 570-4000 • FAX: (562) 570-4049

May 2, 2008

The City of Long Beach Department of Health and Human Services, Maternal Child & Adolescent Health (MCAH) Programs provide a variety of services to the maternal child population in the city.

- 1) The Maternal Child Health Access Program assists women in obtaining early and consistent care for pregnancies and for their children through outreach, and assistance with Medi-Cal enrollment and troubleshooting. The staff also maintains a toll free telephone line in English and Spanish, answering questions and giving referrals for Medi-cal and low-income services to an average of over 600 callers each month.
- 2) The African-American Infant Health Program promotes perinatal health services and community education as well as social support for African-American parents during pregnancy and early parenthood.
- 3) The Long Beach-Wilmington Best Babies Collaborative is a comprehensive, culturally appropriate case management program for high-risk women of childbearing age focusing on reducing disparities, and improving pregnancy and birth outcomes.
- 4) The Nurse Family Partnership Program is a voluntary program where specially educated nurses visit low-income women in their homes during their first pregnancy and throughout the first two years of their children's lives to improve birth outcomes, improve child health and development, and improve the economic self-sufficiency of the family.
- 5) In addition there are 8 public health nurses working within a variety of these MCAH Programs providing case management to high-risk infants and pregnant women, by providing education, referrals, advocacy, and support.
- 6) The WIC Program is a supplemental nutrition program that provides monthly food coupons, nutrition education and referrals, breastfeeding support, and referrals to prenatal and pediatric health care services.
- 7) The Prenatal Clinic located at the main health department facility provides comprehensive prenatal care and family planning services to low-income women in Long Beach and surrounding areas.

Respectfully Submitted,

Terri Nikoletich R.N, MSN/MPH, CNS
Public Health Nursing Supervisor
Maternal Child & Adolescent Health Director
City of Long Beach Department of Health and Human Services