Stakeholders in Maternal & Child Health:

The Delaware Title V 2015-2020 Needs Assessment is Underway!

Title V of the Social Security Act reflects our nation's commitment to improving the health and well-being of mothers, children, and their families, and is operationalized through a block grant. For an overview of the Title V Block Grant and the national health priorities it addresses, please visit http://mchb.hrsa.gov/blockgrant/.

In Delaware, the Title V Block Grant serves as the foundation for much of our Maternal & Child Health Program, and is administered by the Delaware Division of Public Health (DPH).

This month, we will be initiating a statewide Title V needs assessment. Every five years, as a part of the federal Title V Block Grant, states are required to complete a comprehensive assessment of the needs, desired outcomes, and system capacity for the maternal and child health population, including children and youth with special health care needs. The results of this assessment will be used to establish the priorities that will guide our Title V program for the next five years (2015-2020).

Over the next nine months, the Delaware Division of Public Health will be creating a number of opportunities to engage stakeholders, both organizational and community, in the assessment process:

- **Presentations to Stakeholders:** This fall, DPH staff will be attending coalition and service provider meetings to offer an overview of our Delaware needs assessment process, as well as the transformation of the Title V block grant at the federal level. These meetings will also be an opportunity to gather input on other needs assessment, data gathering, and/or goal-setting efforts that we should connect with in order to coordinate and maximize impact.

- **Stakeholder Survey:** In late fall of 2014, we will be sending out a survey to solicit feedback from organizational stakeholders on needs and desired outcomes for MCH populations and services. If you received this email directly, you will automatically receive the survey. (If this email was forwarded to you and you would like to receive the survey, please send your contact information to patricia.burke@state.de.us.)

- **Community Focus Groups:** This fall and winter, focus groups will be convened to gather valuable real-life perspectives from community members on their perceptions of health needs and challenges.

- **Key Informant Interviews:** In early 2015, we will be conducting a series of personal interviews to probe more deeply and gather reflections on some of the themes that emerge from our review of various data sources, including the stakeholder survey.

- **Action Planning Process:** In spring 2015, DPH will engage organizational stakeholders in an action planning process to identify strategies to address Delaware's top MCH priorities. The

resulting action plan will be monitored by DPH, with annual reports to stakeholders on our progress.

We are very excited about this process and look forward to hearing from you throughout. Be on the lookout for email updates!

Questions? Please reach out to any of us!

Leah Woodall, MCH Director - leah.woodall@state.de.us
Linda Tholstrup, MCH Deputy Director – linda.tholstrup@state.de.us
Patricia Burke, Special Projects Manager – patricia.burke@state.de.us