



MEDIA ADVISORY
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Tom Schlueter (630) 444-3098
(630) 417-9729 cell

Health Department to host Prenatal Summits

The Kane County Health Department will be hosting Prenatal Care Summits at two locations, from 8 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., Tuesday, Jan. 15, at Root Street Community Center, 501 College Ave., Aurora, and from 8 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Thursday, Jan. 17, in the Fox Valley University Business Center at Elgin Community College, 1700 Spartan Drive, Elgin.

The summits are open to all providers and members of the Kane County prenatal care system: Physicians, midwives, nurse practitioners, nurses, hospital staff, social workers, case managers, home visitors, WIC staff, early intervention staff, maternal child educators, lactation consultants and support group providers,

There is no charge for this Summit but we do ask that you register in advance to help with planning. You may register by logging on to the Health Department's Web site at www.kanehealth.com and clicking on the prenatal summit link.

The goals of the summits are to review and revisit the "system of prenatal care" in Kane County, enhance communication among members across the prenatal care system in our county, and to provide input for collaborative system improvement and initiatives, said Kane County Health Department Executive Director Paul Kuehnert.

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“We hope to reach women, their families and health care providers in our county with this important message,” Kuehnert said.

Locally, 2005 statistics show that 103 babies were born in Kane County with one or more congenital anomalies, translating to 12 babies out of every 1,000 born to county residents.

January is National Birth Defects Prevention Month. The theme for this year is “Preventing Infections in Pregnancy.” Good health habits for everyone include knowing your family history and genetic risks, seeing a doctor, taking care to not expose yourself to diseases and managing health problems. For women, these habits should also include taking a multivitamin with 400 micrograms (mcg) of folic acid daily starting before she gets pregnant.

For more information about the summits, call: (630) 232-5926

More information about the National Birth Defects Prevention Network and National Birth Defect Prevention Month, is available at www.nbdpn.org.

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