



## WHO WE ARE

The Preconception Health Council of California (PHCC) is a statewide forum for planning and decision-making related to the integration, development and promotion of optimal health before pregnancy (preconception health.)

Established in May 2006 by the March of Dimes California Chapter and the Maternal Child and Adolescent Health (MCAH) Division of the California Department of Public Health (CDPH), the PHCC engages organizations and stakeholders across the state to provide direction for the integration of preconception care into public health and clinical practice, develop policy strategies to support preconception care and promote preconception health messaging for women of reproductive age.

The Council achieves consensus on goals, objectives and activities developed to implement the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) National Select Panel Recommendations on preconception care and serves as a clearinghouse and networking source for preconception efforts across the state. The Council also provides direction for the preconception health activities delineated in the MCAH Division's Title V Implementation Plan.

*The mission of the Preconception Health Council of California (PHCC) is to engage individuals, communities, health care organizations and policymakers to optimize the health and well-being of women and their partners, leading to healthier infants and families.*

## WHAT WE DO - OUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The PHCC prioritizes issues through regular meetings of a multi-disciplinary committee and issue-specific workgroups. The three workgroups - Clinical/Research, Public Health/Consumer and Finance/Public Policy - have developed action plans for their particular area of focus and workgroup members collaborate with other local partners to implement these plans.

*Workgroup accomplishments include:*

- ✦ Launched a comprehensive preconception health promotion website: [EveryWomanCalifornia.org](http://EveryWomanCalifornia.org), featuring information for consumers and resources and networking opportunities for health care professionals.
- ✦ Development of recommendations for the integration of preconception and interconception health care services into health care reform packages.
- ✦ Working with ACOG on a project to provide better care at the same cost by developing guidelines to help clinicians maximize the post-partum visit and address risk factors that could affect a subsequent pregnancy
- ✦ Hosted the Second National Summit on Preconception Health and Health Care in Oakland in collaboration with the CDC. Attended by 600 people; more than 20 California preconception health projects highlighted.
- ✦ PHCC members oversee preconception health projects at the local level that have received state and national attention.

## WHAT THE FUTURE HOLDS

The Preconception Health Council will continue to be a voice for preconception health promotion in the state and will spearhead initiatives to improve the health and well-being of women of reproductive age, their partners, children, and communities.

For more information, contact us at [capreconception@marchofdimes.com](mailto:capreconception@marchofdimes.com) or visit us at [EveryWomanCalifornia.org](http://EveryWomanCalifornia.org).

