



**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

**Dayton &  
Montgomery  
County**



# Montgomery County FASD Task Force

---

**September 9, 2008 Presentation to the  
Montgomery County Board of County Commissioners**

# Montgomery County FASD Task Force

## HISTORY:

### Partnership:

- ✓ Family & Children First Council / PLSP Team
- ✓ Public Health Dayton & Montgomery County
- ✓ ADAMHS Board
- ✓ Board of MR/DD
- ✓ Help Me Grow/Brighter Futures

### Funding:

- ✓ Northrop Grumman Information Technology, Inc.
- ✓ FASD Center for Excellence
- ✓ Substance Abuse Mental Health Service Administration (SAMHSA)
- ✓ Approximately \$470,000 through May 2012

# Montgomery County FASD Task Force

## THE PROJECT:

- ❖ Two-tiered focus:
  1. FASD primary prevention services
  2. Development of a policy-level Task Force

# Montgomery County FASD Task Force

## THE PREVENTION PROJECT:

### Alcohol Screening and Brief Intervention

- ❖ Replication of an evidence-based model conducted in California WIC clinics
- ❖ Services will be provided in 5 Montgomery County WIC Clinics
- ❖ 2,500 women will be screened for alcohol use during pregnancy
- ❖ Women identified as drinking will be provided a brief intervention and follow-up services
- ❖ Referrals will be made for treatment services as necessary
- ❖ Process for incorporating the maternal alcohol history into the pediatric medical file to improve accurate diagnoses of FASD

# Montgomery County FASD Task Force

## CHARGE TO THE TASK FORCE:

1. **Oversee the FASD prevention needs assessment to determine priorities for the strategic planning process.**
2. **Participate in the development of a strategic plan**
3. **Monitor planned activities according to the implementation plan**
4. **Evaluate progress**
5. **Identify service gaps and barriers on an ongoing basis**
6. **Develop a sustainability plan**

# Montgomery County FASD Task Force

## THE PROJECT:

### ❖ Goals:

1. Increase inter-agency coordination in the development of a comprehensive continuum of services
2. Increase awareness regarding the risks associated with alcohol use during pregnancy
3. Implement and collect data that will track FASD risk factors, prevalence, and incidence in order to advance the field of FASD for future providers
4. **Increase the number of pregnant women who choose not to drink alcohol while they are pregnant**

# Montgomery County FASD Task Force

## **OUR PARTNERS:**

- Public Health Dayton & Montgomery County
- Family & Children First Council
- ADAMHS Board for Montgomery County
- Montgomery County Board of MR/DD
- Help Me Grow / Brighter Futures
- Elizabeth's New Life Center
- Mount Olive Baptist Church
- Parent/Community Representatives
- Ohio FASD Statewide Steering Committee
- Samaritan Behavioral Health, Inc. - CrisisCare
- Planned Parenthood SouthWest Ohio Region
- Wright State University
- Miami Valley Child Development Centers
- Perinatal Partners, LLC
- United Missionary Baptist Church

# Montgomery County FASD Task Force

## **6-MONTH PLANNING PERIOD:**

- ❖ Task Force Description
- ❖ Needs Assessment Report
- ❖ Strategy Report
- ❖ Implementation Plan
- ❖ Evaluation Plan

# Montgomery County FASD Task Force

## **FUTURE INITIATIVES:**

- **Strategic Planning Committee**
- **Utilizing the Five Points of Intervention – model by the National Center on Substance Abuse and Child Welfare designed specifically to establish strategic planning around FASD issues**

# FASD IS A SIGNIFICANT PROBLEM

- FASD is the **leading known cause** of mental retardation in the United States
- Prevalence of FASD is estimated to be 10 per 1,000 births.
- **FASD affects at least 40,000 newborns each year.**
  - The cost to the nation of FAS alone may be up to \$6 billion each year.
  - For one individual with FASD, the lifetime cost is at least \$2 million.

\*Source: US Department of Health and Human Services

# CAUSE OF FASD

- When a pregnant woman drinks, the **alcohol crosses the placenta into the fetal blood system**. Thus, alcohol reaches the fetus, its developing tissues, and organs.
- **No alcohol consumption is safe during pregnancy**. In addition, the type of alcohol (beer, wine, hard liquor, wine cooler, etc.) does not appear to make a difference.



# WHAT IS FASD?

- “Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders” (FASD) is an **umbrella term** describing the range of effects that can occur in an individual who was prenatally exposed to alcohol.
  - FAS - fetal alcohol syndrome
  - ARND - alcohol related neurodevelopmental disorder
  - ARBD - alcohol related birth defects

# FASD Has Four Major Components

- A characteristic pattern of facial abnormalities
  - small eye openings, indistinct or flat mid face, thin upper lip
- Growth deficiencies
  - such as low birth weight
- Brain damage
  - such as small skull at birth, structural defects, and neurological signs, including impaired fine motor skills, poor eye-hand coordination, and tremors
- Cognitive difficulties
  - Behavioral or cognitive problems may include mental retardation, learning disabilities, attention deficits, hyperactivity, poor impulse control, social, language and memory deficits.

# WHAT PROBLEMS DO PEOPLE WITH FASD FACE?

- A **University of Washington study** shows the percentage of people age 6 to 51 with FASD who had difficulties in the following areas:
  - 94% had mental health problems.
  - 23% had received inpatient care for mental illness.
  - 83% of adults experienced dependent living.
  - 79% of adults had employment problems.
  - 60% of those age 12 and older had trouble with the law.
  - 35% of adults and adolescents had been in prison for a crime.
  - 45% engaged in inappropriate sexual behavior.
  - 43% had disrupted school experiences (e.g., dropped out).

# Prevalence of FASD in Ohio and Montgomery County\*

FASD occurs in about **10 per 1,000 live births**, or about 40,000 babies per year in the United States.

- It now outranks Down syndrome and autism in prevalence.
- Of the 7,000 to 8,000 babies born in Montgomery County annually, it is estimated that **seventy to eighty** children are born with FASD.



\*Source: US Department of Health and Human Services

## *Drinking Among Women Age 15 to 44 In the United States\**

- 1 in 2 report using alcohol in the past month.
- Approximately **1 in 4 report binge drinking** (defined as 4 or more drinks, on one occasion).
- About **1 in 20 report heavy alcohol use** (defined as binge drinking on at least 5 days in the last month)

\*Source: US Department of Health and Human Services

# FASD CAN BE PREVENTED!

- **FASD is 100% preventable.** The only cause of a FASD is prenatal exposure to alcohol.
- If a woman does not drink during pregnancy, her baby will not have FASD.
- Individuals who already have FASD should receive an accurate diagnosis and appropriate treatment, prevention, and support services.