**The Kansas Perinatal Quality Collaborative- KPQC**

**Summary Update-March 2013**

State Perinatal Quality Collaboratives (PQCs) are networks of perinatal care providers and public health professionals, working to improve pregnancy outcomes for women and newborns by advancing evidence-based clinical practices and processes. There are 17 PQC’s in the U.S. The KPQC is the 18th established PQC in the country.

In November 2012, at a reception hosted by the Greater Kansas Chapter of March of Dimes, the KPQC membership met for the first time. Speaker Barbara Rose, Executive Director of the Ohio Perinatal Quality Collaborative (OPQC) gave the new members a brief picture of the work of a perinatal quality collaborative. The KPQC Leadership Team’s 20 members and six month work objectives were announced.

The KPQC Leadership Team met for the first time in January 2013. The team was given an overview of PQC’s. The vision, infrastructure, governance, and membership of the KPQC were discussed. A by-laws work group was formed to develop the KPQC by-laws. Data resources and requests were identified for discussion at the next meeting.

In February 2013, the KPQC Leadership Team received a summary of the Kansas Perinatal Council’s history, past initiatives and funding. KDHE-BEPHI Director shared vital stats data inventory with the team. Discussion followed and further specific data sets were identified and requested for the team to discuss at the next meeting. Program Director of the Kansas Healthcare Collaborative working with the HEN hospitals on the quality improvement project, early elective delivery (EED), shared with the team KHC’s mission, objectives and participating HEN hospitals. The team’s dialogue concluded with the proposed project plan for AMCHP to partner with Kansas to help bring the AMCHP compendium “to life”. As a model for other states, Kansas will work with AMCHP and the compendium as a tool within the Kansas public health regions to develop a conceptual framework for how Kansas is improving birth outcomes.

The KPQC Leadership Team met recently in March. From gathered information from CMS discussions earlier in the month, CMS data access and resources for KPQC QI strategy was deliberated. KDHE-BEPHI Director shared data from the Kansas Perinatal Causality Report and from the Birth Certificate Quality Improvement Project. The team chose to examine further data from this report and project to find a QI project direction at next month’s meeting. The KPQC final draft by-laws were discussed and will be voted on within the next week.