

County Combats Infant Deaths

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the last year.

The goal is to encourage the kind of environment and behaviors that support better health and wellness. This is done by raising awareness about the risk factors that cause illness and possibly death among babies and planning improved health services.

Consortium member Dr. Vernon Baker of Umoja Inc., states, "For decades it has been said that the children are our future, but if they continue to die at such an alarming rate then what can we say for our future generation? It is our duty to educate the entire community in whatever way we can to elicit their help in finding ways of preventing and decreasing the untimely deaths of tomorrow's leaders."

Issues shown to have a negative effect on birth outcomes include a lack of access to early prenatal and preventive health care; cigarette smoking; drug and alcohol use; and the time between pregnancies or unintended pregnancies.

"Women struggle with habits that make it difficult for them to turn their bodies over to their child," consortium member Roberta Frison said. "Turning your body over means eliminating everything you do that will cause harm to your unborn child so that they can have a chance at life."

That is not the case for Nyree Cunningham. She realized that it was essential for her to be proactive in seeking resources to be of assistance with her pregnancy.

Her daughter, Nyree-Shia is almost



Community Nurse Rose Pickett provides healthcare services to Nyree Cunningham and her daughter Nyree-Shia Cunningham.

two but is not at the equal development stage as other children her age. Nyree-Shia cannot talk, crawl, or walk and because of that she is considered overweight. However, Pickett and Myrick are there to make sure Nyree-Shia develops.

"I am very protective of my daughter. I like spending time with her but I also believe that the consortium has been so much help," Cunningham said.

The program has provided her with not only healthcare but with diapers, transportation and 30 hours respite care each week. Cunningham uses the respite time to go to the grocery store or visit with family. This time away, Pickett feels help's young mothers relieve stress that could otherwise be taken out on their children.

According to Multnomah County Health Department Director Lillian

Shirley, there are no easy solutions given the complicated health and social problems often associated with women who deliver low birth weight infants.

"Effective preventive programs blend health care, health education, environmental modification, and public policy in an effort to create a culture supporting health, acceptance, and equality," she said.

Health Gap Revealed

Study shows employed workers lack care

A new study analyzing data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention shows that a significant number of working Americans in every state do not have health care coverage, including nearly 293,000 in Oregon.

Nationally, at least 20 million working adults do not have coverage. In eight states, at least one in five working adults is uninsured. In 39 other states, including Oregon, at least one working adult in every 10 does not have health care coverage. Oregon ranks ninth among states with the highest rates of uninsured residents among working adults.

The report further reveals that in all 50 states and the District of Columbia, between one-fourth and one-half of all uninsured adults were unable to see a doctor when needed in the past year because of cost, including nearly 214,000 uninsured adults in Oregon.

"Characteristics of the Uninsured: A View from the States" was released by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation during a kickoff event for Cover the Uninsured Week, the largest nonpartisan campaign in history to focus attention on the need to secure reliable, affordable health coverage for all Americans.

"The myth that the uninsured can get the care they need is dispelled by this study," said Ellen Pinney, director of the Oregon Health Action Campaign. "The uninsured are clearly not getting necessary medical care and they are suffering adverse health outcomes as a result."

The campaign is a group of organizations and individuals working to develop health systems that give all people access to the care they need, when they need it, from providers of their choice at an affordable cost

"Lottery profits help Astoria's fishermen get their product to market faster."



PROJECT N^o 2,668

Bill Cook, Deputy Director, Port of Astoria

Astoria, Clatsop County Back in the mid-90s, Astoria-Warrenton fishermen were in a tight spot. Lack of infrastructure to prepare their catch and get it to market was bad for business and bad for the economy of Oregon's north coast. The investment of Lottery profits helped build a public pier, funded state-of-the-art processing facilities, improved electrical service and helped construct roadways that connect the Port of Astoria to Oregon's

main highway system. Now, Astoria-Warrenton fishermen can get their product to market quickly and efficiently, commercial fishing is once again a thriving growth industry in the region and 147 new jobs were created in the process. Since 1985, over \$4 billion in Lottery profits has gone to economic development, state parks, public education and watershed enhancement. itdoesgoodthings.org

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