

Organization: The Enola Group

County: Burke**Address:** P.O. Box 250
Morganton, N.C. 28680**Phone:** 828-430-7970**Website:** <http://enolagroup.org/>**Project:** Professional Conference/Training**Additional counties served:** McDowell*****Below are excerpts from their final report*****

About the Project: The Burke Perinatal Supports Collaborative and the McDowell County Home Visiting Collaborative both consist of programs that provide perinatal support to pregnant women. However, programs differ in the criteria for eligibility to receive support and the type of support offered. The collaboratives jointly sponsored a luncheon on April 29, 2009 to introduce a notebook and referral selection process that facilitates matching pregnant women to available support. All existing OB-GYN physicians, and other medical referral sources and perinatal support providers were invited to the luncheon and given a perinatal support resource guide for their county. We purchased the notebooks and materials required to create 30 referral and provider notebooks. Burke Perinatal Collaborative received 17 of the guides and the McDowell Home Visiting Collaborative received 13 of the guides (there are more referral sources in Burke County).

Agencies included: Burke and McDowell counties' OB-GYN offices , physicians and nurse practitioners; McDowell Pediatrics; Mountain View Pediatrics; Department of Social Services Medicaid Specialists (Burke and McDowell counties); Smart Start Partnerships (Burke and McDowell counties); Burke County Child Care Connections – parent information referral group; Child Service Coordinators from the Department of Public Health (Burke and McDowell counties); nurses from Grace Hospital and McDowell County Hospital; The N.C. Children's Developmental Services Agency, which supports both Burke and McDowell counties.

The provider agencies set up seven tables with agency information to share with participants. Burke County has recently been selected to participate in the National Children's Study which may include some of the families the referral sources and provider agencies support. Because of this we invited the regional coordinator of the National Children's Study to attend and meet both referral and provider resources.

Successes: Because Burke and McDowell counties are rural counties with limited economic resources and centrally located medical supports, pregnant women often cross county lines seeking support from a variety of sources. This luncheon provided an opportunity for supportive resources and agencies from



both counties to meet and share information face-to-face and become better informed about how support for pregnant women can be coordinated.

We anticipate an increase in referrals in both counties for perinatal support from the referral sources. We also anticipate more informed referrals that match pregnant women to providers that can best support them. The establishment of the perinatal support collaboratives in Burke and McDowell counties reflects the increasing demand for coordinated family support within and between these two counties. Both groups recognize that the information needed to assess and plan how best to support pregnant women and their families in Burke and McDowell counties can only come from collaboration between the medical, provider, resource and social service agencies. This luncheon allowed the two collaboratives to share common goals and outcomes and we anticipate this will encourage continued collaborative perinatal support activities within and between Burke and McDowell counties.