

**PATERNITY SHOWCASE:
*STRATEGIES FOR BOOSTING
PATERNITY ESTABLISHMENT RATES***

In-hospital paternity programs have been around since the 1990s. Are there any new strategies being used today to promote voluntary acknowledgments of paternity? How can we meet the demands of the growing unwed birth rates around the country? What have we learned about reaching new and expectant unwed parents with information on the importance of paternity establishment? What kind of training and outreach works best to help hospital staff increase in-hospital paternity rates? Our presenters will share current trends in paternity establishment programs, as well as best practices that have worked in their states.

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Paternity Showcase



Speakers:

Lisa Cauthorne

**Center for the Support
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&

Tom Dalik

Policy Studies, Inc.



Working Together for Children and Families – A “Shore” Thing

What is Paternity Establishment?



“To legally add the father’s name to a birth certificate if the mother is unmarried.”

- Generally, paternity can be established in three ways
 - AOP
 - Administratively
 - Court Determined

Federally Mandated?

- Yes
 - Legislation- Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act (PRWORA) 1996



State Mandated?



VA

- Program supervised by the Department of Social Services; Division of Child Support Enforcement
- State Legislation- Code of the Commonwealth of Virginia § 63.2-1914
- For more details see this website:

<http://leg1.state.va.us/000/lst/LS507886.HTM>

State Mandated?

SC

- Law specifies that “DHEC and the State DSS, in conjunction with the South Carolina Hospital Association, shall develop and implement a program to promote obtaining voluntary acknowledgments of paternity as soon after birth as possible and where possible before the release of the newborn from the hospital...”



State Mandated?

SC

- The Child Support Enforcement Division of DSS created the SC Parenting Opportunity Program to administer its responsibilities in the process.



National Establishment Data

- 2007 brings a record 4.31M babies
 - 40% or 1.7M of all births were to unmarried adult women
 - 10% increase of births to 25-29 year olds
 - 20% increase since 2002
 - Teen mothers 23%
- USA Today, March 19, 2009
- <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/pressroom/07newsreleases/teenbirth.htm>



SC Specifics



Births to unmarried parents in South Carolina

27,226 in 2006

28,351 in 2007

29,225 in 2008; 49% of all SC births

VA Specifics



- Births to unmarried parents in Virginia
 - 36,269 in 2006
 - 38,189 in 2007
 - 37,944 in 2008;
 - Represents 35% of all births in VA
 - 24,086 babies went home with dads on their birth certificate

Note: Information courtesy of Virginia Division of Health Statistics. These numbers may not be exact but closely represent the data collected at this time.

Working Together for Children and Families – A “Shore” Thing

South Carolina's Rates of Interest



Year	Births	Unmarried Births	UnM Birth%	PATAACK	PATAACK%
2006	59572	27226	46%	8905	33%
2007	60206	28351	47%	10804	38%
2008	60085	29225	49%	12616	43%

Virginia's Rates of Interest

- 2008 VA Hospital Preliminary Establishment Rate – 64%
- 62 VA Birthing Hospitals
 - Total births 108,417
 - Understaffed
 - Limited coverage
 - Budget constraints
 - Employee turnover



Program Progression- SC



- SCPOP was outsourced to PSI in March 2007
- Established baseline in-hospital PEP of 33% (44% total PEP) for the 2006 calendar year.
- The goal set for the program was to get the in-hospital PEP up to 60%.

Program Progression- SC



- We have seen a 10% increase in the in-hospital PEP (11% increase in total PEP) in two years.
- Helped DSS avoid corrective action from Federal Government in FFY 2008 and facilitated a switch from IV-D PEP reporting to Statewide PEP reporting

Program Progression- VA



- Originally outsourced in 2003
 - In hospital PEP rate in 2003 was 48%
- Preliminary numbers for 2008 indicate a 64% hospital establishment rate

Program Progression- VA



- Program goals are to increase rates by 2-3% yearly; ultimately reaching 80%
- DCSE has been able to receive 100% of Federal Incentive Monies each FFY

Discussing Paternity



- At the time of birth, is the best time to talk about paternity establishment (Fragile Family Study)
 - The greatest statistical indicator of whether or not an unmarried dad will be involved in his child's life IS **WHETHER OR NOT HE ESTABLISHED LEGAL PATERNITY!**

Standard Outreach Activities



- Site Visits
- Regional annual training/conferences
- Educational materials
- Guides to assist hospitals with Paternity Acknowledgments
- Newsletters
- Monthly statistical monitoring to track performance

Barriers



- Location of staff within the hospital; OB vs. Medical Records
- Unwillingness of staff to adequately explain rights and responsibilities
- Dealing effectively with illegal immigrants and language barriers
- Overall ineffectiveness of the Paternity Acknowledgment

Barriers



- Fathers not showing up to the hospital
- Fathers not having proper ID
- Lack of authority of staff
- Staff unavailable on nights and weekends; when dads visit
- Staff are not notaries; can not complete documents

Increase Awareness & Education Prior to Birth



SC

- Medicaid offices
- WIC offices
- Fatherhood Programs
- Crisis Pregnancy Centers
- Maternity Fairs
- Public Service Announcements
- County Vital Records offices

Increase Awareness & Education Prior to Birth



VA

- OBGYN offices
- Women’s Clinics
- Crisis Pregnancy Centers
- Departments of Health
- Health Fairs/Mobile Health Caravans

Best Practice Ideas- SC



- **Distribute SCPOP materials to other hospital components that work with expecting mothers.**
- **Show the SCPOP Parent Video.**
- **Increase the number of notaries.**
- **Paternity Challenge.**
- **DNA testing options.**
- **If Birth Clerks work in Medical Records:
Ask for access to a computer in the Post-Partum area with EBC loaded on it.**



Best Practices Ideas- VA

– Hospitals

- “PEP Rally”
- “Spot Light”
- Annual Report Cards

– Website

- Private
- Public (English & Spanish)



VA Training



- One-on-one training for Birth Registrars as needed
 - Frequent staff turnover
- Annual Training
 - Conference Style
 - 6 locations
 - Travel
 - Time away from office
 - Back up

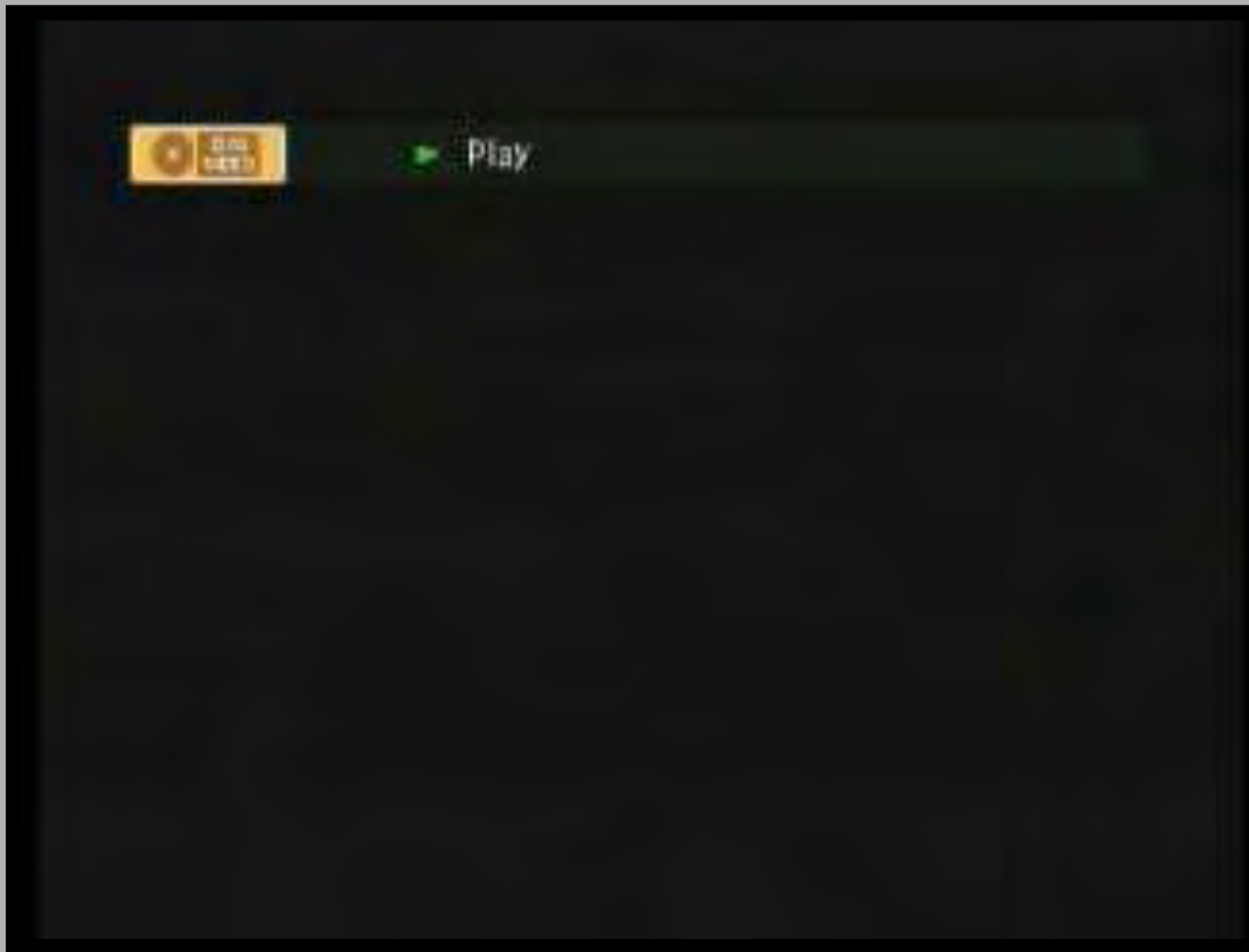
SC Training



- Site Visits
- Yearly Training Conferences
(4 throughout the state)
- Training Manual
- Quarterly Newsletters
- SCPOP Video
- Statistical Updates

SCPOP Parent Video Clip

Progressive Scan HDTV



TOSHIBA





Questions?

Closing Thought...

**“If you want happiness
for an hour, take a
nap.**

**If you want happiness
for a day, go fishing.**

**If you want happiness
for a year, inherit a
fortune.**

**If you want happiness
for a lifetime, help
somebody.”**

Chinese Proverb

