



E-NEWS

November 2014

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March of Dimes Prematurity Summit

Dina Herren, RNC-OB
Tift Regional Medical Center
GPA Board Member

The 2nd Annual March of Dimes Prematurity Awareness Summit was held on November 13, 2014 in Atlanta. The summit provided information on strategic planning and collaborations on improving birth outcomes in Georgia.

Dr. Brenda Fitzgerald, the Commissioner of the Georgia Department of Public Health and State Health Officer, revealed that Georgia's March of Dimes 2014 Premature Birth Report Card is a "C". The prematurity goal rate is 9.6% and Georgia is at 12.7%. Georgia is now 34th in the U.S. in infant prematurity and was awarded most improved in the United States.



Dr. Brenda Fitzgerald

Sponsors for the summit included: March of Dimes, BlueCross Blue Shield of Georgia, WellCare, Georgia Perinatal Association, United Way of Metro Atlanta, Healthcare Georgia Foundation, Georgia OBGYN Society, and the Georgia Department of Public Health.

Other speakers at the summit addressed disparities in birth outcomes and maternal mortality. Presentations included eliminating early elective deliveries, CenteringPregnancy, and the importance of developing collaborations with different organizations. Dr. Jacqueline Grant, a GPA Board member, presented on implementing CenteringPregnancy.

CenteringPregnancy provides group prenatal care to women incorporating health assessment, education and



Dr. Jacqueline Grant

support. CenteringPregnancy improves breastfeeding rates and improves infant and maternal outcomes. CenteringGeorgia will host a conference on April 17th, 2015 in Atlanta on implementing the CenteringPregnancy model.



2015 GPA President Jodi Hudgins (right)

CONTACT US
Georgia Perinatal Association | 2711 Irvin Way | Suite 111 | Decatur | GA | 30030
p 404.299.7700 | f 404.299.7029 | erica@jlh-consulting.com

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Georgia Perinatal Association | 2711 Irvin Way | Suite 111 | Decatur | GA | 30030