



MLK – Heritage Health Center

Isaac Coggs Heritage Health Center

MHS – Convenient Care Clinic

**PRESS RELEASE**  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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**Milwaukee Health Services, Inc. is pleased to announce it has received a \$6000 grant from the March of Dimes Foundation. Milwaukee Health Services, Inc. will use these funds to obtain Centering Pregnancy Site Approval through Centering Healthcare Institute, Boston, MA**

Milwaukee Health Services, Inc. (MHSI) announced that it has received a \$6,000 community grant from the March of Dimes Wisconsin Chapter. Funds from this grant will be used to obtain Centering Pregnancy Site Approval. MHSI initially implemented Centering Pregnancy in July of 2009; site approval is a quality assurance activity that provides practices with expertise, support and guidance to strengthen Centering. It is official recognition that MHSI has met the standards through the Centering Healthcare Institute.

MHSI is on a crusade to reduce the high infant mortality rate in the central city and will serve mothers by enhancing education and supporting services that focus on reducing disparities in birth outcomes. The Centering Pregnancy program at Milwaukee Health Services Inc. is a multifaceted model of group care that integrates the three major components of care: health assessment, education, and support, into a unified program within a group setting. Women with similar gestational ages meet together to learn self care and infant positive behaviors, participate in facilitated discussions, and develop supportive networks with other group members.

Each pregnancy group meets 10 times throughout pregnancy and early postpartum. Within the group space, the practitioner completes individualized physical health assessments.

Through this unique model of care, women are empowered to choose health-promoting behaviors. Health outcomes for pregnancies, specifically increased birth weight and gestational age of mothers that deliver preterm, and the satisfaction expressed by both the women and their providers, support the effectiveness of this model for the delivery of care.

Centering Pregnancy groups provide a dynamic atmosphere for learning and sharing that is impossible to create in a one-to-one encounter. Hearing other women share concerns which mirror their own helps the woman to normalize the pregnancy experience. Groups also are empowering as they provide support to the members and also increase individual motivation to learn and grow. Professionals report that groups provide them with renewed satisfaction in delivering quality care. For more information regarding the Centering Pregnancy program at MHSI contact Ms. Jill Denson, Director of Social Work, at 414-372-8080 ext. 1206 or email [jdenson@mhsi.org](mailto:jdenson@mhsi.org).

Milwaukee Health Services, Inc. is one of four Federally Qualified Health Centers located in the city of Milwaukee. The mission of MHSI is to provide accessible, quality primary and related health care services to Milwaukee residents, with the continuing emphasis on medically-underserved families and individuals. MHSI operates the Martin Luther King, Jr. Heritage Health Center at 2555 N. Dr. Martin Luther King Drive, the Isaac Coggs Heritage Health Center at 8200 W. Silver Spring Drive and the MHS Convenient Care Clinic located in the Midtown Piggly Wiggly at 4061 N. 54<sup>th</sup> Street.