

On March 27, 10-12 pm, in Meeting Room 6 of the Empire State Plaza in Albany, the Public Health Committee of the New York State Public Health and Health Planning Council will be facilitating a discussion on **strategies for integrating preconception care into routine health care for women of reproductive age**.

The March 27 meeting is part of an ongoing series of discussions the Public Health Committee is convening to address factors contributing to maternal mortality and other adverse birth outcomes. Reducing maternal deaths is one of the key priorities for the state's Prevention Agenda, and this issue has been selected by the Public Health Committee as a focus area for their work this year.

The Committee is especially interested in the intersection between maternal mortality, pre-existing chronic disease/health risks and unintended pregnancy. Optimizing women's health prior to pregnancy, including practices to ensure that women who do not wish to become pregnant use effective contraception, are critical elements of a multi-pronged approach to improving maternal mortality and eliminating the striking racial and ethnic disparities in maternal death rates.

The March 27 meeting will engage clinicians practicing in a variety of settings and specialties in a discussion of the following questions:

1. How do providers who care for women of reproductive age currently incorporate preconception health care in routine outpatient practice?
2. What challenges or barriers exist to making this approach part of routine care?
3. What would support further integration of these practices in routine care?