Peer Education: Developing a Model to Support Women at Risk for Drug Use During Pregnancy

Indu Gupta, MD, MPH, MA, FACP
Rebecca Shultz, MPH
Onondaga County Health Department
March 24, 2016
Purpose

• Reduce the number of substance exposed pregnancies by linking pregnant women with the necessary healthcare or community services before becoming pregnant or early in pregnancy

Community Connectors

A Model to reduce Substance Exposed Pregnancies and Newborn Drug-related Hospital Discharges in Onondaga County
Partners
Progress

• Seven community connectors were identified and trained
• To-date, 3 remain involved with the program
• Other successes
  – Achieved a high level of community engagement
  – Integrated separate committees into a single task force
  – Developed strong collaborations with medical and human service communities
Challenges

• Maintaining engagement of Community Connectors
• Developing and implementing a robust evaluation process
• Ensuring program sustainability
• Promoting and enforcing the practice of cultural humility among staff
Next Steps

• Proposal to expand the Peer2Peer model to include additional topics, like breastfeeding and childbirth
  – Connectors will be more fully integrated into OCHD activities / committees
  – Compensation will be included
  – Doula training available through a community partner

• In Depth Technical Assistance opportunity
Discussion Questions

1. How do we ensure buy-in from staff, partners and community members?

2. How can we ensure not only a culturally competent staff, but one that practices cultural humility at all levels?
Thank you!

Onondaga County Health Department

www.ongov.net/health • facebook.com/ongovhealth