



NEWS RELEASE

ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

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National and state experts address teen pregnancy prevention at Montgomery conference

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The Alabama Department of Public Health and the Alabama Department of Human Resources are collaborating with the Population Resource Center of Princeton, N.J. to present a conference on "Meeting the Needs of Alabama's Teens: Successful Approaches to Teen Pregnancy Prevention" Dec. 4 in Montgomery.

The one-day long meeting begins at 9 a.m. at the Convention Center at the Guesthouse Hotel and Suites. The conference is open to all interested persons, for a nominal fee, but is targeted to legislators, teachers, nurses, social workers and those who work with adolescent social services programs.

The program opens with a keynote address, "Meeting our National Challenge," by Sally Sachar, deputy director of the National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy in Washington, D.C. Following her overview, the program will highlight successful programs for teens in the southern region and nationally. Dr. Marion Howard, director of the Jane Fonda Center at Emory University, will speak on a "Southern Success" and Larry Siegel, regional director of the Children's Aid Society's Florida Regional Adolescent Training Center, will discuss the highly successful comprehensive program developed in New York by Dr. Michael Carrera.

Afternoon speakers will address teen pregnancy in the Alabama context beginning with a presentation on "Alabama's Perspective" by Rhonda Stephens of the Center for Health Statistics at the Alabama Department of Public Health. Kathy Midgley, director of the Alabama Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy, will speak on "Alabama's Campaign" followed by two presentations on successful state programs by Sheron Thames, executive director of the Teen Center in Mobile and Stephanie Malone, executive director of Girls, Inc. in Huntsville.

Underscoring the importance of the conference, Phyllis Gilchrist, director of the Alabama Unwed Pregnancy Prevention Program of the Bureau of Family Health Services at the Alabama Department of Public Health, said "We are grateful to the Population Resource Center for again providing us an opportunity to dialogue with regional and national experts who struggle, as we do, to prevent teen births."

The Alabama Department of Public Health works closely with the community to preserve and protect the public's health and to provide caring, quality services throughout the state.

Jane De Lung, president of the Population Resource Center, said, "PRC is particularly pleased to renew this collaboration. Alabama has been in the forefront of states reducing teen birth rates and we are delighted to be involved in their continuing efforts to prevent adolescent pregnancies and to support fragile young families."

The Population Resource Center, a national organization providing the demographic dimension of public policy, is dedicated to providing decision makers at the state and national levels objective information about population trends and issues. Since 2000 almost 3,500 policymakers from government, business, foundations and the nonprofit community have attended the Center's more than 200 briefings, seminars and conferences featuring over 250 volunteer experts from the research community. The Center's work is characterized by its objectivity and bipartisanship.

For more information on the teen pregnancy prevention, please visit the Alabama Department of Public Health's Web site at www.adph.org .

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