

Working Anencephaly Investigation and Response Action Plan
July 28, 2014

Surveillance

Activity	Outcome	Timeline	Staffing/Resources
Statewide passive surveillance of all neural tube defects using linked Birth/Fetal Death and Hospitalization records	Ongoing monitoring of neural tube defects identified at birth to determine statewide and regional trends	Quarterly reporting through July 2015 (Note data file has a 6 month lag time)	DOH staff epidemiologist
3-county area – ongoing stimulated passive surveillance of all neural tube defects from hospitals and providers with active follow-up	Ongoing monitoring of neural tube defects across three county area	Quarterly reporting through July 2015	DOH staff epidemiologist

Investigation of Cause

Activity	Outcome	Timeline	Staffing/Resources
Interviews with mothers of infants with anencephaly who were residents of the 3-county area and had an estimated date of delivery within 2 years of interview (from 8/1/2012 to present)	Identification of frequent exposures among case mothers. Can compare to control information from National Birth Defect Prevention Study and population data.	Preliminary: August 2014–March 2015 establish and complete data collection and data sharing; April 2015–June 2015 data analysis; July 2015 data presentation	Working with CDC to identify resources for interviews. Details still need to be worked out.

Prevention Activities – Public Outreach

Activity	Outcome	Timeline	Staffing/Resources
Public Service Announcement Radio Spots. March of Dimes has contacted 45 radio stations in Eastern Washington and provided links to public service announcements promoting folic acid use. Spots are available in English and Spanish.	Women of child-bearing age in Benton, Franklin and Yakima counties informed about the importance of folic acid use.	June 2014–ongoing	March of Dimes

Folic Acid brochures and materials in English and Spanish sent to hair salons, community and technical colleges in Central Washington for dissemination to clients/students	Women of child-bearing age in Benton, Franklin and Yakima counties informed about the importance of folic acid use.	July 2014	March of Dimes
Folic acid brochures and materials in English and Spanish to health care and social service providers, and local churches for dissemination to patients	Women of child-bearing age in Benton, Franklin and Yakima counties informed about the importance of folic acid use.	August 2014–July 2015	DOH and local health staff
Newspaper ads – March of Dimes will contact newspapers in Central Washington and provide folic acid banners and messages to include in the paper.	Women of child-bearing age in Benton, Franklin and Yakima counties informed about the importance of folic acid use.	August 2014–ongoing	March of Dimes
Washington State Commission on Hispanic Affairs/Dept of Health radio programming collaboration	30 minute radio show in Spanish on investigation and prevention opportunities – syndicated to several stations	August or September 2014	State Epidemiologist State Health Officer DOH Staff
Anencephaly Investigation web page on Dept of Health website	Continue to promote folic acid use among reproductive age women. Embedded link to CDC folic acid webpage	Ongoing	DOH State Epidemiologist and Communication staff
Women's Health webpage and fact sheet includes folic acid message. Fact sheets available in English, Russian and Spanish	Continue to promote folic acid use among women of reproductive age. Fact sheets can be downloaded from DOH website.	Ongoing	DOH Prevention and Community Health

Prevention Activities – Provider Outreach

Activity	Outcome	Timeline	Staffing/Resources
Local Health communication to providers: blast fax, and articles in medical society newsletters. Request health officers across state inform their providers. Encourage advisory committee members and interested parties to share health advisory with their network.	Inform all health care providers in Benton, Franklin and Yakima County about the increased rate, investigation, case-reporting, and prevention of both occurrent and recurrent neural tube defects.	August 2014	State and Local Health Officers/Central Washington Perinatal Regional Network partners
Presentations to Providers: OB Grand Rounds 8/27/14 in Yakima; Benton-Franklin TBD	Inform all health care providers in Benton, Franklin and Yakima County about the increased rate, investigation, case-reporting, and prevention of both occurrent and recurrent neural tube defects.	August–December 2014	State Epidemiologist State Health Officer Local Health Officers Central and Eastern Washington Perinatal Regional Network Partners
Development and dissemination of materials for providers on 1) discussing pregnancy planning and 2) promoting folic acid use to women of reproductive age	Health and social service providers have resources to assist them with conversations regarding pregnancy planning and folic acid use.		

Prevention Activities – Folic Acid

Activity	Outcome	Timeline	Staffing/Resources
Subsidize Folic Acid Vitamins	Increased access to folic acid containing vitamins for low income women of reproductive age		Explore whether Memorial Foundation, Yakima Valley Community Foundation, Legends Casino and or others willing to support folate availability.

Folic Acid supplementation of corn masa flour - Letter of support to FDA	Washington State support for FDA approval of folic acid supplementation of corn masa flour	Hold off for now, FDA has asked for additional information from MOD and petitioners. May be role to advocate for public funding to support study collecting additional information	
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Prevention Activities – General

Activity	Outcome	Timeline	Staffing/Resources
Convene monthly phone call of state and local public health, March of Dimes, Perinatal Regional Network coordinators, and other interested parties to coordinate ongoing prevention efforts.	Coordinated ongoing prevention efforts which take advantage of existing meetings, trainings, public forums, and other opportunities.	August 2014–July 2015	State and local public health staff, March of Dimes, Perinatal Regional Network coordinators, and others.

Additional suggestions from advisory committee meeting on 7/28/2014 which require exploration:

Interview mothers of all anencephalic infants with estimated date of delivery back to 2010; Will discuss with CDC and Peter Langlois

- Explore ways to do further outreach to providers and hospitals through Washington State Hospital Association
- Enlist assistance of local promotoras in getting messages to public; Will need to identify promotoras currently working in Benton, Franklin and Yakima
- Promote consumption of folate rich foods by identifying foods and making recommendations through WIC programs.