

Paternity Matters

For you... AND your child!

Paternity Matters:

**A division of
The Office of
Recovery
Services/
Child Support
Services**

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Paternity Matters Turns One!

August marks the first birthday for Paternity Matters!

It's hard for us to believe that it has already been a full year since the day when the Office of Recovery Services was approved for Federal grant funding to try this project, but they say that time flies when you're having fun.

And what a first year it has been!

Much of this first year has been spent learning about the processes that the hospital birth certificate specialists use when establishing paternity. We also tried to learn as much as possible about the process used to transfer birth certificate and paternity information from the hospital to the Vital Records office.

From there, we've looked for ways that Paternity Matters could pitch in to make this process even more successful. These one-time Federal funds gave us a unique opportunity to develop some new materials that would not have been possible otherwise.

In each issue of this newsletter so far, we've offered a new educational tool for use in the hospitals. But we also heard your feedback when you said in the Hospital Survey (December 2005) that the parents need to be educated **BEFORE** they get to the hospital.

So, in this issue, we'll celebrate our first year by showing you some of our efforts to educate parents before they get to you! These are all in very early stages, but we hope that, over time, this will make your paternity establishment efforts easier as more parents start to arrive at the hospital with many of their questions already answered.

Above all, this first year has allowed us the opportunity to get to know some very terrific people in the hospitals throughout the entire state. We have come to appreciate each of you and all of the hard work that you do. Thank you so much for the support that you've given us!



Facts and Figures

- *In Utah, VDPs have been completed at the hospital in 5% more births between January and August of 2006 than were completed during the same time period in 2005!*

Inside this issue:

Getting to Know You: 2
Vickie Migliori,
Logan Regional
Hospital

Spreading the Word 3
About Paternity

Question and Answer 4

Getting to Know You!

Introducing: Vickie Migliori, Logan Regional Hospital

In celebration of Paternity Matters' first birthday, we decided to interview one of our newest contacts, who also happens to be celebrating her first year anniversary as the birth certificate specialist at Logan Regional Hospital.

In one short year, Vickie has learned the VDP program well, and Logan Regional Hospital is showing an 8% increase in completed VDPs over last year. Emilee talked to Vickie about her experiences with the VDP program this first year.

Vickie Migliori grew up in Vernal, Utah. She later moved to Hyde Park, Utah (a small town just north of Logan) and has lived there for the past 17 years.

Vickie is married and keeps plenty busy with five children ranging in age from 14 to 25 years old.



***“It’s in
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leave the hospital.”***

-Vickie Migliori

Somehow, she still finds time to pursue her hobbies. She loves to read, but she also loves to exercise, including running, hiking, road biking, and mountain biking.

Vickie began working at Logan Regional Hospital a little over a year ago. She became the birth certificate specialist last August and is the only person at Logan Regional who does this job.

But even with being new and being alone in the job, Logan’s numbers are climbing.

Vickie feels that the key to her success is that she is extremely organized and detail-oriented. But she knows that there are always other staff members who make a difference in whether the VDP program is successful or not. For Vickie, the support comes from the great staff that she works with in Health Information Management (medical records).

In her short experience with the VDP program, Vickie has already recognized its value. She feels that it is extremely important to get paternity established and has seen that there can be problems later if paternity is not established early on.

She summed it up well when she stated: “It’s in the mother’s and the child’s best interest to have those paternity documents signed before they leave the hospital.”

We at Paternity Matters couldn’t agree more!

Thank you, Vickie.

**And good luck
in your second year!**

Spreading the Word About Paternity!

A common theme in the Hospital Workers Survey responses was that parents need to be more educated about paternity before they arrive at the hospital.

Paternity Matters heard your request.

We are gradually developing more materials to educate parents and forming new relationships with community groups who can help us spread the word. Here's just a little sample of some our recent outreach efforts.

Community Fairs

There's nothing like a fair, and Paternity Matters is particularly fond of community fairs where we get the chance to meet face-to-face with people who have questions about paternity establishment.

If your hospital or other community group hosts a fair, remember to invite Paternity Matters! We'll do everything we can to provide materials to pass out, posters to decorate, a smiling face to answer questions, and maybe a little treat to bribe people to come see what we're about.



Emilee Beers at the Clearfield DWS Community Resource Fair in May, 2006.

Special thanks go to the following groups who have already extended invitations to their community fairs:

- Lakeview Hospital Baby Festival
- Fillmore Community Health Fair
- Calvary Baptist Church
- Clearfield Department of Workforce Services: Community Resource Fair
- Department of Corrections: Second Chance Employment and Resource Fair.

OB-GYN Offices

Where better to reach expectant mothers than at their "home away from home" during nine months of pregnancy? The doctor's office!

At least that was the thought at Paternity Matters when we sent approximately 170 letters to OB-GYNs and Certified Nurse Midwives throughout the state early last spring.

We asked the doctors and midwives to offer VDP brochures and Paternity Matters pamphlets to their patients, and we suggested that these could be offered as part of the "welcome packet" or even just displayed in the waiting room.

We also offered a poster specifically for examination rooms that gives single mothers just a little information about paternity and tells them to contact Paternity Matters for more information.

We used phone listings to get our list of doctors, so we may have missed some, particularly where General or Family Physicians deliver babies. You can help. Mention us

to your doctor, or pass along doctors' names to us, and we'll make sure we've contacted them.

Three Important Facts for Single Mothers:

1. "Paternity" means "Fatherhood."
2. "Paternity Establishment" protects important legal rights for your child.
3. Paternity Establishment can be **FAST, FREE, and FINISHED** before you leave the hospital!

GET THE FACTS!

Paternity Matters

Contact Paternity Matters at The Office of Recovery Services
Phone: 1-800-662-8525
E-mail: orpaternitymatters@utah.gov
for you... AND your child!

Television

In August, we started one of the biggest projects of the year: we filmed three commercials for Paternity Matters!



Each commercial tells a story about a special father/child moment. You'll see a father reading a story to his baby, a father playing in the park with his twin toddlers, and a father walking his daughter down the aisle on her wedding day.

Dozens of ORS employees agreed to play roles in these commercials and brought along their family members for the filming. Filming days were fun and full of surprises. Our ORS actors were great, but of course, the kids stole the show!

Thanks to the Department of Human Services for letting us borrow their very talented media manager, Dave Thomas, to create these ads. He is working magic in the editing room right now, and we think we'll see the finished products by October!

Contact Your Paternity Matters Staff

Phone:

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Liesa Corbridge: 801-536-8986

Fax: 801-536-8833

E-mail: orspaternitymatters@utah.gov

NEW WEBSITE COMING SOON!
WATCH FOR DETAILS



Office of Recovery Services
Attn: Policy Analyst Unit
PO Box 45033
Salt Lake City, UT 84145-0033

Question and Answer

Q. The application for child support services at the Office of Recovery Services says that the applicant must provide a copy of any paperwork that establishes paternity. Do they really have to get a copy of the signed VDP, or is the birth certificate with the father's name on it enough?

A. The Office of Vital Records and Statistics and the Office of Recovery Services have worked together for many years to share the paternity establishment information that is required for a child support services case. As a result of this relationship, ORS is able to verify that paternity has been established by a Utah VDP whenever it becomes necessary for a child support case.

The parents will find that the birth certificate with the father's name on it is all that many places ask for and that it will be sufficient for many other purposes throughout the child's life. However, if there is a legal question about paternity, a father's name on the birth certificate is not enough to legally establish paternity unless it is backed up by a VDP, a court order, or the fact that the parents were married at the time of birth.

"Paternity Matters" was formed by the Office of Recovery Services in 2005 to provide education about the paternity establishment process in Utah. Paternity Matters focuses on three main objectives:

- Provide training, supplies and support to individuals who work with unwed parents on the Voluntary Declaration of Paternity process in the hospitals.*
- Educate unwed parents about paternity establishment, methods of establishment, and benefits to the parents and children.*
- Provide training and educational materials to community groups who work with unwed parents.*

Paternity establishment is important to our communities, to unwed parents, and most of all, to the children!

*Paternity Matters
looks forward
to seeing you
at the
Office of Vital Records
and Statistics
Regional Meetings in
September and October.*

*We'll be there to present the
Second Annual
"Golden Pen Awards"
for excellent achievement in the
Voluntary
Declaration of
Paternity
program during the
2005 Calendar Year.*

We'll see you there!

Thank you for this question:

Mountain West Medical Center!

Do you have questions for us?

*E-mail your questions to:
orspaternitymatters@utah.gov*