

Whidbey Family Birthplace DOH OB Advanced Skills Report May 14, 2008

-Our objectives were aimed at increasing the Labor and Delivery skills of selected nurses who typically work on the Medical unit and are called over to help in OB when we are busy. Because we are a small hospital with a small birth rate, it has been challenging to help these nurses attain and maintain a level of skill that will meet our standards of care.

-I see this as an ongoing process and we have achieved roughly half of our objectives, with one year left to go on the grant. Our accomplishments/deliverables include:

- Purchase and implementation of educational materials in a variety of formats that have begun to be put in use at quarterly staff meetings to train all staff, including the newest nurses on our unit on topics such as breastfeeding, labor support, maternal emergencies and newborn care. Our physicians and lactation specialists have been able to utilize the materials to spread the education to more of our staff.
- Orientation/job shadow in a tertiary hospital (UWMC) for 2 of our nurses currently cross-training to be Secondary Labor nurses. This coincides with new job postings to add a 2nd nurse to our staffing numbers, as we are beginning to see more deliveries on our unit, so the timing could not have been better. Plans to recruit a 3rd nurse to do the same training at UW by June 2009. Preceptor at UW also WFBP manager!
The 2 nurses were able to experience a variety of clinical situations that would be useful to have been exposed to, in their work at WFBP and though the training was strenuous, they both really enjoyed it!
- Plans to document competency in fetal monitoring for all nurses who work in WFBP with labor patients, through the use of the AWHONN fetal monitor competency by the end of 2008.

-Challenges to the implementation of our plans have been scheduling staff to attain new skills and practice what they have learned, due to our smaller birth rate. The nurses we have trained with the grant have priority to be assigned to our unit until they are competent with their new skills.

-Recommendations for improving future project activities include "advertising" the grant more visibly, to allow other facilities to have access to it and allowing facilities who have accessed the grant to re-apply, so as to continue the processes they have begun with the original funding.