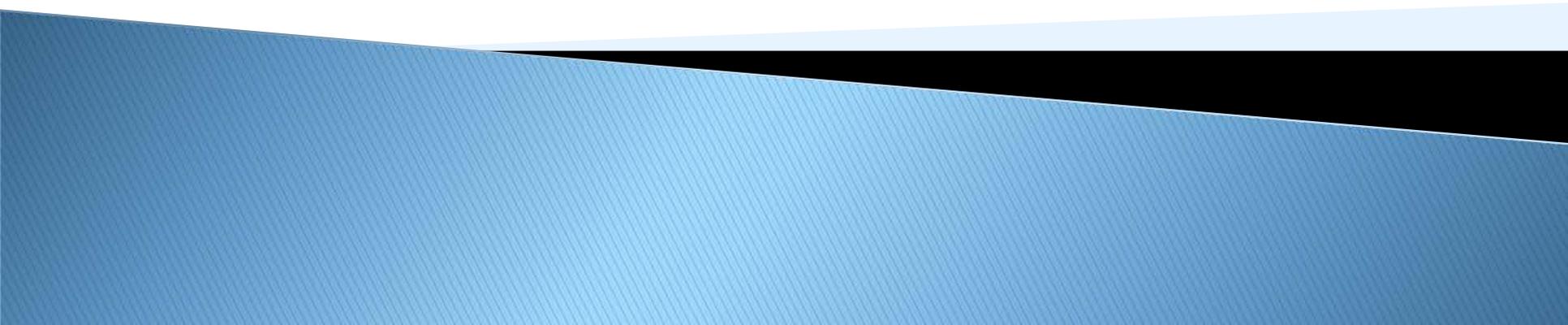


# Fetal and Infant Mortality Review The Basics

The Maryland Department of Health and  
Mental Hygiene



# Overview of FIMR Program

## ▶ What is FIMR?

“A community commitment to improved pregnancy outcomes”

- Focuses on systems of care and identifying gaps in care resulting in action
- Aims to improve pregnancy outcomes– enhances existing perinatal care system’s goals
- Community–based
- Adds family voice

# Overview of MD FIMR Program

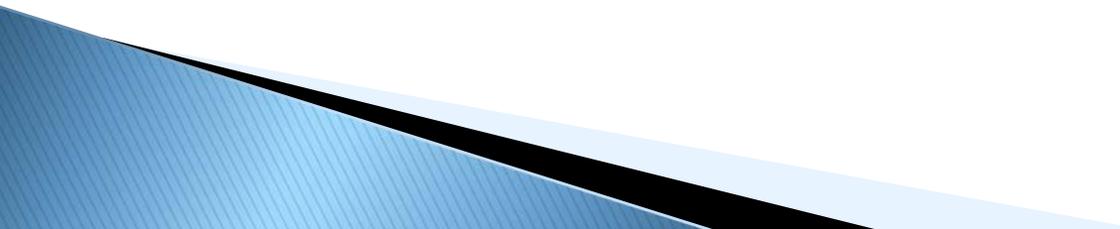
- ▶ Goal: Improved health and well-being of families in Maryland.
- ▶ Every death is a tragedy for the individual, family and community.
- ▶ Public Health Approach:
  - Surveillance—Monitor sentinel events to identify systems failures.
  - Quality Assurance—Investigate events to develop strategies for prevention.

# Core Public Health Functions

- ▶ Assessment: collection and analysis of data related to the health of the community.
- ▶ Policy development: through appropriate use of assessment data.
- ▶ Assurance: access to services, programs, and policies to sustain health.



# What FIMR Is...What FIMR Is Not

- ▶ Is focused on systems issues rather than seeking redress.
  - ▶ Is not peer review or medical case review.
  - ▶ Is used to understand the how and why of poor outcomes.
  - ▶ Is not for assigning blame to either patients or providers.
- 

# Review of FIMR Process

- ▶ Tracking
  - Identify sentinel events.
- ▶ Review
  - Collect information from various sources.
  - Review selected cases with multi-disciplinary team.
  - Develop recommendations.
- ▶ Action
  - Develop plan for community action.
  - Mobilize community for action.



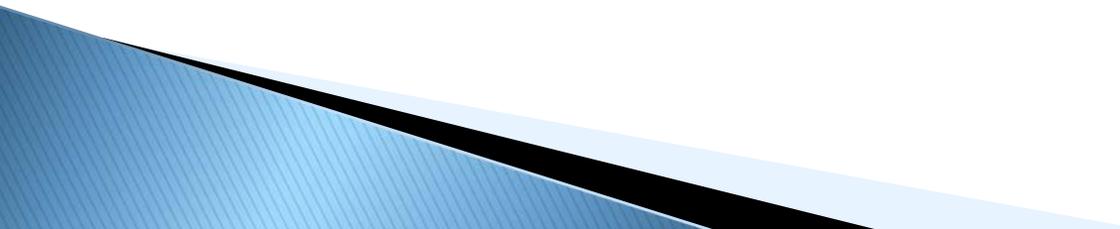
# Tracking Cases



- ▶ To document number of deaths or cases received.
- ▶ To identify key trends or issues of interest.
- ▶ To determine priorities for case review.

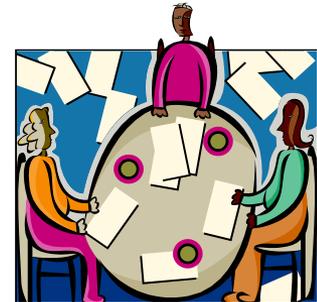
# Case Tracking Steps

## ▶ Process

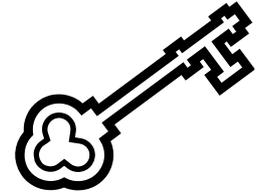
- Notification of sentinel event.
  - Log in case and assign case number in spreadsheet or table.
  - Enter key characteristics.
  - Establish timeline for reviewing cases entered to date to identify any key trends or issues of concern.
  - Share with CRT/other key personnel to determine priorities for case review.
- 

# Case Review Process

- ▶ Gather information
- ▶ Tell the story
- ▶ Analyze the interaction between systems of care
- ▶ Identify possible needs or problems
- ▶ Synthesize all case findings
- ▶ Recommend policy or system changes



# Key Guidelines for Case Review



- ▶ All case material is de-identified.
- ▶ All material is held in confidence.
- ▶ Make every effort to understand mother's perspective of events.
- ▶ Understand circumstances of individual case to develop recommendations to improve systems of care for everyone.

# Planning for Action

- ▶ Essential to achieving systems change.
- ▶ Ensures that scarce resources are focused for the most effective results.
- ▶ Documentation of efforts and accomplishments validates the investment in activities.

