

MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

# Fetal and Infant Mortality Review The Basics

**Maternal and Child Health Bureau**  
**Prevention and Health Promotion Administration**

Updated April 2018

# 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



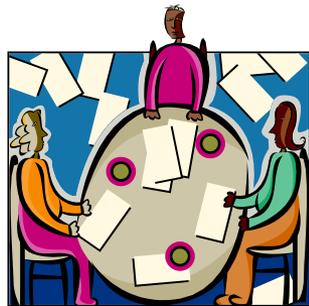
- To document number of deaths or cases received.
- To identify key trends or issues of interest.
- To determine priorities for case review.

# Case Tracking Steps MARYLAND Department of Health

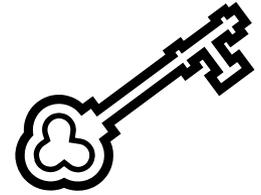
- Process
  - Notification of sentinel event.
  - Log in case and assign case number in spreadsheet or table.
  - Enter key characteristics.
  - Establish timeline for reviewing cases entered to date to identify any key trends or issues of concern.
  - Share with CRT/other key personnel to determine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

# Case Review Process MARYLAND Department of Health

- 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.

