



International Connections

Council of International Neonatal Nurses, Inc. (COINN) Update



Carole Kenner, PhD, RN, NNP, FAAN*

Coinn, 2110 Yardley Road, Yardley, PA 19067 USA

ARTICLE INFO

Keywords:
International
Policy
Neonatal
Nursing

ABSTRACT

Today, prematurity and its effects on neonates, families, and societies have risen to the world's policy stage. The recognition that most prematurity is preventable creates the "perfect storm" for professional organizations, private and public corporations, non-governmental organizations, and governmental groups to collaborate to improve health outcomes for this most vulnerable population. The Council of International Neonatal Nurses, Inc. (COINN) unites neonatal nursing globally to bring the nursing perspective to this work. This column features an update on the *United Nations meeting* held in September, 2014.

© 2014 Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

The Council of International Neonatal Nurses, Inc. (COINN), the only international neonatal nursing organization that is dedicated to raising the standards of neonatal nursing care and education. COINN attended several meetings at the United Nations in September. These meetings were aimed at improving outcomes for mothers, infants, and children. One key meeting focused on the Every Newborn Action Plan (ENAP) now in its implementation phase. This article will describe COINN's activities in these policy initiatives.

Every Newborn Action Plan (ENAP)

As reported in a previous NAINR column, the *Every Newborn Action Plan (ENAP)* was launched in response to the number of newborns that continue to die globally. According to *The Lancet*, 2.9 million neonates are still dying and another 2.6 million are stillborn.¹ The vision for this plan is "A world in which there are no preventable deaths of newborns or stillbirths, where every pregnancy is wanted, every birth celebrated, and women, babies and children survive, thrive and reach their full potential."² On September 25th, the *Every Woman Every Child* high level meeting occurred that called for public, private partnerships to launch multilevel interventions to address women and children's health. The session was led by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon. Much of the emphasis was on the need for prevention of the preventable deaths, especially of newborns using integrated essential interventions as had been discussed in 2010.^{3,4} The announcement of new commitments totalling \$4.46 billion sent a clear message of the importance of women and children's health globally.⁴ Over 300 partners are involved in this work. The UN Secretary-General called for the establishment of a "Partnership Facility" to form coalitions that are ready to implement plans to meet the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).⁵ What are some of the implementation plans?

Training personnel to stabilize and care for vulnerable newborns is one key. This training spans essential newborn care such as thermoregulation, kangaroo mother care to promote breastfeeding, and resuscitation—Helping Babies Breathe, and stabilization. COINN is involved in partnering with other organizations such as the Global Engagement Institute, S.T.A.B.L.E., and others to provide training. Leadership development is another part of the training.

Leadership Development

Nurses are at the forefront of care in most countries. Throughout the UN meetings nurses and midwives were named as essential to any successful maternal–child intervention. However in many countries nurses are without voice in effectively changing health care delivery. COINN through funding from AbbVie, has taken on leadership development of neonatal nurses. One training session was held in Sao Paulo, Brazil in December 2013. Nurse leaders in the country is continuing these efforts to teach nurses how to advocate for changes for the profession and for newborn care practice. This training is essential if nurses are to use their expertise to effect policy changes. They are taught how to use their clinical skills to tell their stories, to tell their patient's and family's stories in order to illustrate the need for health care delivery change.

Progress to Date

COINN is at the forefront of the work-hands on clinical training, providing care, as well as working with multiple partners to enact policy changes. COINN was the only nursing organization representing neonatal nurses at the high level UN meetings. Why is this important? Because neonatal nurses must have a voice in health care delivery redesign and help shape health care of the future for newborns and their families. Globally neonatal nurses know firsthand many of the social factors impacting health outcomes. They know where the training needs are. They must share this information with others and fully participate in changing neonatal care. COINN is the instrument that can help!

* Corresponding author. Tel.: +1 405 684 1476.
E-mail address: ceo@coinnurses.org.

References

1. Lawn JE, Blencowe H, Oza S, et al. for The Lance Every Newborn Study Group. Progress, priorities, and potential beyond survival. *Lancet*. 2014, [http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736\(14\)60496-7](http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(14)60496-7). [Available: [http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(14\)60496-7/fulltext](http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(14)60496-7/fulltext) Accessed June 7, 2014].
2. Every Newborn Action Plan (ENAP). Vision. Available;www.everynewborn.org. [Accessed: June 7, 2014].
3. UN. Global strategy for women's and children's health 2010. Available:http://www.everywomaneverychild.org/images/content/files/global_strategy/full/20100914_gswch_en.pdf. [Accessed: October 14, 2014].
4. UN. Every woman every child's 2014 UNGA. Available:<http://everywomaneverychild.org/news-events/news/965-partnering-for-results-delivering-for-every-woman-every-child>. [Accessed: October 14, 2014].
5. Ki-moon B. Remarks at the Every Woman Every Child event. Available:http://www.un.org/apps/news/infocus/speeches/statments_full.asp?statID=2371#VD1cyBCO6QF2014. [Accessed: October 14, 2014].