



**2012 DONATION SUMMIT**

*it's about time...*





# string of Pearls



# Definition of Perinatal Hospice

- ❖ A philosophy of family- centered care that addresses the expectations and intentions of families who choose to continue a pregnancy after their baby is diagnosed with a life-limiting condition. It includes the broad goals of palliative care: to anticipate, prevent, and relieve suffering (physical, psychological, and spiritual) and preserve dignity and promote quality of life for baby and family, while honoring parental preferences and wishes for their baby's care regardless of length of life.

# Objectives of Perinatal Hospice

- ❖ Provide unconditional support from point of diagnosis and up to 2 years following delivery
- ❖ Freedom from fear of abandonment
- ❖ Allow parents to fully experience the birth of their child and encourage bonding during the time of pregnancy and beyond
- ❖ Parents will know they treasured their baby's life, no matter how long or short

# Staff Involved in Perinatal Hospice Care

- ❖ Perinatal/neonatal staff
- ❖ Obstetricians
- ❖ Nursing (L&D/antepartum/postpartu/NICU)
- ❖ Social Services
- ❖ Chaplain services/local pastors
- ❖ Grief counselors/Grief support groups



# What Do Parents Want?

## ❖ Empathetic support

- Compassion
- Someone to listen but be slow to speak
- Know they are sad, but give them the freedom to laugh too
- Include family and friends in discussion

## ❖ Information

- Procedural: explain what, how, why
- Induction
- Medication
- Birth plan creation and implementation
- Labor and Delivery experience



# Steps For Care of a Family

- ❖ Initial Perinatal/neonatal staff
- ❖ Obstetricians
- ❖ Nursing (L&D/antepartum/postpartum/NICU)
- ❖ Social Services
- ❖ Chaplain services/local pastors
- ❖ Grief counselors/Grief support groups comes from OB/Perinatologist/self-referral
- ❖ Client usually between 16-22 weeks pregnant
- ❖ Meet with family to discuss diagnosis, options and answer questions
- ❖ Introduce family to concept of perinatal hospice
- ❖ Complete intake form with family
- ❖ Set up schedule to meet with SOP contact after regular OB appt



The premise of Perinatal hospice care is, life is precious no matter how long or how short. We have an amazing opportunity to walk alongside families as they write their story, instead of a secret they feel they have to hide.



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