Plan
Identify an opportunity and plan for improvement

1. The Opportunity
   - The percent of preterm birth rate in the county is 13% compared to 11.4% in the rest of the state. The percent in the county for Hispanic women is 19.7%.*
   - The reasons for high preterm birth rate in the county are unknown. Risk factors for preterm birth include late or no prenatal care, smoking, alcohol use, drug use, domestic violence, lack of social support, stress, long working hours, exposure to environmental pollutants, infections, high blood pressure, diabetes, being underweight before pregnancy, obesity and short inter-pregnancy interval. The occurrence of a previous preterm birth is the greatest predictor of subsequent preterm birth. The rate of women accessing prenatal care in the first trimester is 74.9% and the same as the state. The rate for Hispanic women is significantly lower at 55%.

2. Assemble the team
   - A diverse coalition of prenatal care providers meet monthly.

3. Purpose Statement:
   - Identify the characteristics of women who have preterm births to better understand the risk factors for preterm births in this community, including specifically use of prenatal care services (status: unknown)

4. Examine the current approach
   - Birth certificates have not been examined on case-by-case basis.
   - The community health center and health care institution conduct satisfaction surveys but have not held focus group nor asked about cultural barriers to identify reasons some women do not access timely or adequate prenatal care services
   - A broad-based group of prenatal care providers and other community partners meets monthly, and may be missing interacting with key players that would be important in ensuring preconception and inter-conception services for high risk populations.

5. Identify potential solutions and predictions
   - Individual birth certificates will be reviewed for patterns in risk factors associated with preterm births and use of prenatal care.
   - Questions relating to access to health and other services in the county will be assessed of
     - 50 women (including 30 Hispanic women) and 30 providers
   - At least two more key stakeholders (e.g. dentist, Hispanic leaders) will be invited to participate in the coalition.
   - The prediction is that coalition members will gain an understanding of the contributing factors impacting the percent of preterm births including risk factors, barriers, and access to services for women of all racial, ethnic and socioeconomic status. Once this is known, the coalition partner can begin targeted interventions that have been demonstrated to impact those relevant factors.

6. Identify measures and data collection processes
   - Identification of at least one preventable contributing factor that could reduce the percent of preterm births
   - Development of survey questions to get at barriers, risk factors and issues related to preterm birth and access to services.
   - Review of birth certificates to identify women at risk of subsequent preterm birth

   - Number of women and health care providers who answer the questions.
   - Number of women accessing health and other services
   - Satisfaction level of staff the community health center serving the women

7. Test the potential solutions
   - The potential solutions will be identified once survey and focus group results are in. The group will utilize the Prevention Agenda and other resources to identify evidence-based or promising strategies. One potential strategy that could be adopted would be engaging and training lay people from the Hispanic community (community health workers) to conduct outreach and education to other Hispanic women.

8. Study the Results
   - Coalition members learn strategies to decrease preterm birth rates.

9. Adapt the improvement strategy or Standardize the improvement
   - Based on the results, the coalition members will begin targeted interventions.

Anticipate - Do
Test the potential solutions for improvement

Expect to Study
Use data to study results

Predict Future - Action
Standardize the improvement and establish future plans
By Year 5: the rate of preterm birth will drop by 5%. This outcome rate may be adjusted at the end of year 1.

10. Disseminating Plan/Sustaining engagement of partners
The Plan will be posted on the website of the local health department, hospital partners, and that of coalition members. The prenatal care provider coalition has been in existence for the past three years and members are engaged.

* Number of preterm births to Hispanic women were less than 20.

References
1. Bureau of Biometrics, 2008-2010
2. PRAMS Annual Report 2010