

# OCPIM Quarterly Meeting Advocacy Presentation

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**FULL TERM**  
FIRST BIRTHDAY  
GREATER AKRON



# Our Mission

To advocate for policies, educate our community and inform citizens of programs that promote healthy full-term pregnancies and to ensure that every child celebrates a first birthday.



# What is Advocacy?

Advocacy is an activity by an individual or group that aims to influence decisions within political, economic, and social systems and institutions.  
(Wikipedia)

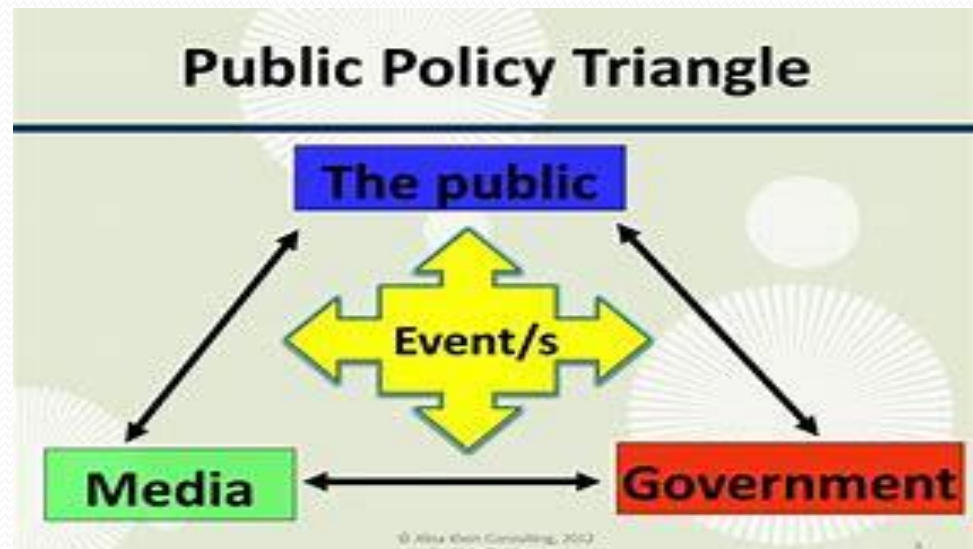
## Why Advocate?

"Unless someone like you cares  
a whole awful lot, Nothing is  
going to get better. It's not."  
- Dr. Seuss, The Lorax



# Advocacy for Maternal and Child Health

- Self-Advocacy
- Local Advocacy
- State Advocacy



# Self- Advocacy

Self-Advocacy:  
Know Yourself,  
Know What You  
Need, Know How  
to Get It



# What do Pregnant Women Need?

- A support system
- Self-care
- Mental Health support
- Access to medical care
- Doctors who listen
- Housing
- Transportation
- Employment



# Knowing how to get what you need?





# We need to empower our moms to advocate for themselves



# Local Advocacy

- Mayor's Office
- City Council
- County Council
- Courts
- Public Housing
- Social Service agencies
- Local Foundations

*We must make the economic case to reduce premature birth and infant mortality.*



# State Advocacy

- H.B. 11 (Rep. Manning (R-55) Rep. Howse (D-11)  
Regards tobacco cessation and prenatal initiatives (passed by the House)
- H.B. 40 (Rep. West (D-49 ) Rep. Galonski (D- 35)  
Regards testing pregnant women for sex transmitted diseases (Introduced)
- H.B. 165 (Rep. Liston (D-21) and Rep. Galonski (D-35)  
Regards adoption of health education standards (Introduced)

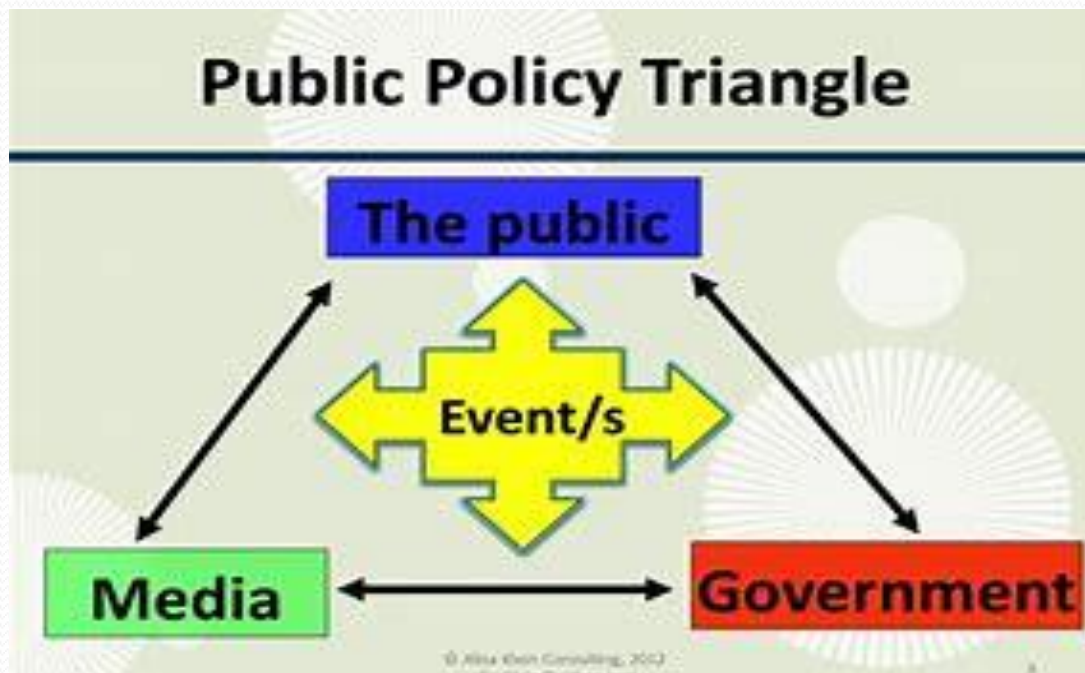


# State Advocacy *(continued)*

- H.B. 297 (Rep Ginter (R-5) Rep. Powell (R-80)  
Grant tax credit-contribute cash to pregnancy resource center (Introduced)
- S.B. 121 (Sen. Sykes (D-28) Sen. Kunze (R-16)  
Adopt health education standards/GA need only approve Venereal Disease education



# How to Advocate for change?



*advocacy*  
to change “what is”  
into “what should be”



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