

Denise Helms, RN (Northampton County)

Denise Helms is employed by Northampton County Health Department as the Maternity Program Coordinator. She is responsible for the care, referral and follow-up of clients seen through various agency programs inclusive of WIC, Health Start Baby Love Plus, as well as prenatal clinic. Her organizational skills and diplomatic attitude are major assets. She is able to deal with the many varied and complex problems encountered during the prenatal and postnatal period with a caring and professional attitude. Through her 19 years of public health experience and working with pregnant women and children, she is always looking for ways to improve the Maternity Program. She is conscientious about program requirements and assures proper care according to state guidelines. She often manages care of patients who have social, language and cultural barriers and has an interest in learning all she can concerning Latino culture to better serve Northampton County's growing Latino population. Denise is highly respected by her nursing peers and often goes the extra mile by volunteering to fill in during staff shortages.

Clara Johnson, RN (Bladen County Health Department)

Clara Johnson has been an employee of Bladen County Health Department for 15 years. She worked as a home health nurse for 12 years and has held the agency's position of Maternity Coordinator for the past 3 years. She jumped into this new role and began working with the Mid-level Practitioner to provide the best care possible for maternity clients. Clara worked to implement Open Access for the Maternity Clinic to allow patients to make appointments that were more convenient with their schedules and to allow the provider and coordinator more time to spend with the patient. Open Access has provided more opportunities for patient education and has greatly improved the clinic atmosphere. In addition to Open Access, Clara has actively sought ways to enhance patient care by implementing diabetic education and seeking resources to make supplies and medications available to diabetic patients.