

**"KANGAROO" MOTHER CARE IN THE "COMMUNITY" OF MANILA Dr.  
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Whereas Manila is the bustling capital city of the Philippines with many hospitals catering to the healthcare needs of pregnant women, around 75% of deliveries still occur outside the hospital system due to various reasons, foremost of which is economics. The City of Manila which is divided into six districts, has 12 Lying-in Clinics under the governance of the Manila Health Department of the Local Government Unit. Within the same city, there are over 30 Health Centers providing outpatient and ambulatory care to Manila dwellers. In 2004, "Kangaroo" Mother care was introduced to the Manila Health Department which was very much appreciated and recognized for its utility and applicability in the City of Manila. All healthcare personnel of the Manila Health Department underwent training on KMC at Dr. Jose Fabella Memorial Hospital in several batches and pilot implementation was begun in September 2004. By the end of December 2005, 11110w-birth-weight babies <2001gm were enrolled into the KMC program and the care and follow-up of 83 babies were handled adequately by the City Health Personnel in the Lying-In Clinics and Local Health Centers. Eleven of these enrollees (26%) required referral to various hospitals in Manila. This referral network system was devised, wherein, KMC neonates who manifested signs of instability or poor adaptation were referred to Dr. Jose Fabella Memorial Hospital or to the nearest hospital for stabilization and treatment, and then sent back to the "community" health center for continuation of care in KMC. Data were collected, gathered and analyzed and subsequently reported to the City Health Officer who recognized the benefits of the program, not only for its role in promoting maternal-infant bonding and breastfeeding but also its economic benefits to the family and the health care system as a whole. In January of 2006, a Memorandum of Agreement was formally signed by the City Health Officer and the Medical Director of Dr. Jose Fabella Memorial Hospital recognizing the partnership and commitment to KMC. The Standard Operating Procedures for the KMC program of the City of Manila and Flow of the Referral system were finalized and approved in June of 2006 paving the way for its standard implementation, documentation, and data collection. A statistical report of this program will be presented in the workshop.