

MINUTES

Purpose: Engage Okaloosa County community members in a health improvement process through an open, two-way dialogue to reduce infant mortality and racial disparities related to infant and maternal health outcomes.

Attendees: Emily Pickens, Florida Department of Health in Okaloosa County (DOH-Okaloosa); Danie Crowley, DOH-Okaloosa; Donna Burns, DOH-Okaloosa; Bethany Guillory, Healthy Start Coalition of Okaloosa and Walton Counties; Ardelle Bush, Healthy Start Coalition of Okaloosa and Walton Counties; Amarylis Emrick, Freedom Life Compass and Healthy Start Doula; Lynn Wadsworth, DOH-Okaloosa.

Opening – Emily Pickens

- Emily Pickens opened the meeting and welcomed attendees.
- Emily reviewed the meeting's purpose and agenda. Danie shared the results from the Community Engagement Survey from the previous meeting. Attendees felt that their ideas were valued but would like to see more community participation.
- Minutes from the September 14, 2023, meeting were reviewed and approved.

Action Plan Updates – Ardelle Bush

Fetal Infant Mortality Review Community Action Group Updates

- Bethany shared that they will be introducing new educational materials on marijuana and pregnancy to fathers and mothers. Healthy Start has distributed 120 books to hospitals in Okaloosa County on safe sleep.
- The new Healthy Start Community Resource Directory is going through its final edits and will be available soon.
- Bethany also stated the Doula Program has completed its test run and should be piloted in December or January. They are looking for doulas that would be able to complete the Grow Doula training.
 - Their TEAM Dad fatherhood program has approximately 9-10 fathers enrolled. Weekly meetings are held with a fatherhood coach, for easy access.

Recipe for a Healthy Baby Distribution

- Bethany stated that Healthy Start has distributed the Recipe for a Healthy Baby materials to OBGYN offices in Okaloosa County.
- Danie updated the PowerPoint presentation for the Recipe for a Healthy Baby.
- Ardelle mentioned Healthy Start and Winn Dixie have partnered to advertise Safe Sleep for a 3-month period across four sites. They be shown on screens available at check out.
- Bethany stated that she has started working on the Greatest Baby Shower Packets. The event will take place on May 21st.

Maternal Advocacy

- Bethany shared their pregnancy loss and remembrance event, A Light to Remember, went well and they had a good turnout.
- Bethany shared that they are continually distributing Hear Her materials.

- Lynn shared that they have not been able to visit the jail due to being short staffed. New employees have just been hired, so the program should be up and running soon.

Breastfeeding

- Bethany shared they have made a new contact with Christina for breastfeeding services. In this program she can provide 3 visits, including an initial and two follow-ups.
- Donna shared the Breastfeeding Color Run was a success, with 8 vendors and 30 participants.
- Danie reported she finished ordering items for the Breastfeeding in a Box kits. This includes products like Haaka pumps, nipple creams, educational books, and more, provided in a cooler. Once the final products arrive, she will distribute them.
- Amarylis shared that United Way's ALICE Program may be able to help supplement formula for women who may not qualify for WIC.
- Donna mentioned that pace feeding is an issue for many mothers in WIC and in daycares. Many mothers believe they need additional formula, but often aspiration occurs due to overfeeding.

Action Items- Emily Pickens

Fetal Infant Mortality Review Community Action

- Bethany suggested brainstorming questions for the 2024 safe sleep book survey.
- Emily explained DOH-Okaloosa has a new Epidemiologist that works with the District One Medical Examiner's Office. She asked the group for suggestions of valuable data that could potentially be shared with the group.
 - Bethany stated this may be useful to bring to the attention of the FIMR Case Review Team or community coordinator due to issues with their tracking system.

Recipe for a Healthy Baby Distribution

- Danie will offer Recipe for a Healthy Baby training to childcare partners.
 - She will share the presentation with Healthy Start to potentially record and place on their website. A post-test may be developed as well.

Breastfeeding

- Danie will begin preparations with Donna to reach out to childcare facilities about pace feeding and how to handle breastmilk.

Open Discussion – All

- Amarylis shared that Destiny Worship Center will be hosting a Thanksgiving Drive on November 18th and a Christmas Drive (date TBD).
- Ardelle stated that they will be hosting an Access meeting on 12/13/2023 at the Niceville Community Center. The Clinic Manager from Bridgeway will be the guest speaker.
- Emily shared that the DOH will be installing a Born Learning Trail at the Don and Susan Stillwell Park in Fort Walton Beach on December 8th and 9th.

Closing – Danie Crowley

- Emily thanked attendees for participating and asked them to complete the meeting evaluation form to provide feedback.



Healthy Moms and Babies OCHIP Group Meeting | Healthy Start Fetal Infant Mortality Review Community Action Group (CAG)
Northwest Florida State College Building 310
100 E College Blvd Niceville, FL 32578
November 09, 2023 3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Next Meeting – Thursday, January 11th at 3:00 p.m. at Northwest Florida State College

Action Items	Owners	Deadline	Status
Invite new partners needed for FIRM CAG	Ardelle Bush, Bethany Guillory	Ongoing	In progress
Invite new members from Niceville Moms Groups on Facebook & Doulas	Amarylis Emrick	November 9th	In progress
Invite new members from Eglin Hospital and the NAACP	Donna Burns	Ongoing	Not started
Invite manager from Early Childhood Court	Emily Pickens	Ongoing	In progress
Research and identify opportunities for policies, systems and environmental change related to maternal advocacy	Lauren Hobbs, Emily Pickens	Ongoing	Not started
Offer Safe Sleep training and Recipe for a Healthy Baby training to Healthy Okaloosa Childcare partners	Danie Crowley	Ongoing	In progress
Leverage Faith Based Organizations to supply formula	Emily Pickens	Ongoing	Not started
Invite manager from Early Childhood Court	Emily Pickens	Ongoing	In progress