

## 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 Tash, Florida Department of Health in Okaloosa County (DOH-Okaloosa); Amy Miller, DOH-Okaloosa; Donna Burns, DOH-Okaloosa; Lynn Wadsworth, DOH-Okaloosa; Ardelle Bush, Healthy Start Coalition of Okaloosa and Walton Counties; Bethany Guillory, Healthy Start Coalition of Okaloosa and Walton Counties; Miranda Smolen, Healthy Start Coalition of Okaloosa and Walton Counties; Theresa Ryan, Northwest Florida State College; Crystal Harrison, Homelessness and Housing Alliance; Chris Hawkins, CDAC Behavioral Healthcare.

### Opening – Emily Tash

- Emily Tash opened the meeting and welcomed attendees.
- Emily reviewed the meeting's purpose and agenda. She also shared the results from the Community Engagement Survey from the previous meeting.
- Minutes from the November 14, 2022 meeting were reviewed and approved.

### Finalize Action Plan – Ardelle Bush and Crystal Harrison

- Ardelle Bush shared that Healthy Start is working on a Fetal and Infant Mortality Review (FIMR) group. The group has two workgroups. She suggested Healthy Moms & Babies serve as the Community Action Group (CAG). She described this group as the champions for change, who will carry out the community-based work.
  - Attendees agreed that the FIMR CAG aligned with the goals of the group.

### Action Items – Ardelle Bush

- The group reviewed the goals, objectives, and strategies from the November OCHIP meeting. Ardelle led the group through a discussion of action items for each objective.
- To distribute Recipe for a Healthy Baby material, Dr. Ryan will continue sharing information at NWFSC. Bethany Guillory will add a training PowerPoint to their website. Miranda Smolen will revisit local provider offices to share materials.
  - Attendees agreed a greater focus needs to be added to tobacco and other substance use. Ardelle shared smoking, vaping, and using marijuana are important topics to focus on based on current birth outcomes.
  - Group members suggested finding more tailored materials that talk about tobacco use. Emily will talk with Anamaria in the Tobacco Free Okaloosa program to see what the Bureau can provide.
  - Healthy Start is launching a Fatherhood Program soon that will emphasize the 'never shake a baby' message.

- Ardelle shared a need to re-engage hospital partners. She said Ascension Sacred Heart consistently works with their efforts and is very engaged in a partnership with Healthy Start. Other hospitals have been harder to consistently reach and partner with.
  - She also shared the Florida Perinatal Quality Collaborative is working to address drug overdose outcomes during pregnancy and after birth. They aim to work with hospitals to improve reporting policies and procedures.
    - They emphasized how important it is for women to come forward so providers can be prepared, rather than to punish those experiencing addiction.
- Ardelle also shared midwives are coming to HCA Fort Walton-Destin Hospital soon.
- Bethany stated Healthy Start is working on a grant process through a local lactation consultant. This will provide a number of free visits for moms who want to receive these services, but cannot due to cost.
- Ardelle shared they are waiting to launch a doula program at Healthy Start. The program will include five doulas to be interviewed soon.
  - They will focus on first-time moms, teenagers, Black and African American moms, and military spouses whose partners are deployed.
- Amy Miller shared that WIC has now emphasized looking at duration of breastfeeding. They look at four related indicators to track duration.
- Lynn Wadsworth shared information about the Hear Her CDC campaign that promotes maternal advocacy messaging.
  - The group discussed sharing messaging via social media, printed handouts at events, and to local providers.
  - Lynn suggested hosting Lunch and Learns but Ardelle and Miranda shared barriers they experienced with lunchtime trainings. Bethany suggested using Hear Her as an online provider training on their website instead. The group agreed.

**Open Discussion – All**

- Crystal Harrison shared the homeless Point in Time (PIT) count is on January 26<sup>th</sup>. They still need volunteers. Register to volunteer on the Homelessness and Housing Alliance website.

**Closing – Emily Tash**

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

*Next Meeting – Thursday, March 9<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 PM at Northwest Florida State College*

<b>Action Items</b>	<b>Owners</b>	<b>Deadline</b>	<b>Status</b>
Find TFF pregnancy and smoking, vaping, and/or marijuana use educational tools	Emily Tash	Next meeting	Not started
Outreach to faith-based organizations to attend next meetings	Mandy Bricker	Next meeting	Not started
Invite new partners required for FIMR CAG	Ardelle Bush	Next meeting	In progress



**Okaloosa County Health Improvement Partnership (OCHIP)**  
**Healthy Moms & Babies Meeting | Healthy Start Fetal Infant Mortality**  
**Review Community Action Group (CAG)**  
**Location: NWFSC Nursing Building**  
**Date: January 12, 2023 Time: 3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.**

---

Invite new members from non-agency partners (i.e. mom groups, La Leche)	Jennifer Wilhelm	Next meeting	Not started
Share Recipe for a Healthy Baby PowerPoint	Emily and Jennifer	ASAP	Not started

---