

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; Teresa Ryan, Northwest Florida State College and CALM House; Amarylis Emrick, Freedom Life Compass and Healthy Start Doula; Jennifer Herndon, Children's Home Society of Florida; Miranda Smolen, Healthy Start Coalition of Okaloosa and Walton Counties.

Opening – Emily Pickens

- Emily Pickens opened the meeting and welcomed attendees.
- Emily reviewed the meeting's purpose and agenda. She was unable to share the results from the Community Engagement Survey from the previous meeting due to Survey Monkey being down. She will share results via email.
- Minutes from the July 13, 2023, meeting was reviewed and approved.

Action Plan Updates – Ardelle Bush

Fetal Infant Mortality Review Community Action Group (FIMR CAG) Updates

- Ardelle Bush shared Healthy Start will hold a Memorial Service, A Light to Remember, for National Pregnancy and Infant Loss Remembrance Day on October 15, 2023. The event will be held at Lincoln Park (1217 North Bayshore Dr. Valparaiso FL 32580) from 3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. Guest speakers include Jane Bradley and Elizabeth Micas.
- Bethany Guillory shared Healthy Start's Grief Memory Boxes are complete. They contain a teddy bear, bracelet, candle, grief and healing journal, handkerchief, charms, ornament, stickers, forget-me-not seeds, magnet, and a keepsake for a locket of hair.
- Ardelle stated that two employees recently became certified Safe Sleep trainers. They can provide training to daycares, partners, and other facilities.
- Bethany shared Santa Rosa County recently held a SUIDI training for first responders. The training was very successful and there has been high interest from local law enforcement. Another training will be offered in Bay County in October. Another training may potentially be offered in May.
 - Emily shared she worked with DOH-Okaloosa's Epidemiology department to promote the training to key law enforcement partners.
- Miranda Smolen shared she is partnering with Step One Automotive on Saturday September 23rd for safety checks from 9:00 a.m. - noon at the Volkswagen dealership in Fort Walton Beach for Child Passenger Safety Month.
 - Car seats will be available on a first come first serve basis.

- Miranda will hold a class in the future to become a Child Passenger Safety Technician. More details to come.
- Ardelle and Bethany shared that their Healthy Start Resource Directory will be complete by the end of the month. A virtual version will be available in the future.

Recipe for a Healthy Baby Distribution

Emily is working to update the Recipe for a Healthy Baby presentation soon.

Maternal Advocacy

- Bethany shared that the office managers of the local OBGYNs expressed they enjoy the Hear Her materials. They especially like the Hear Her screening dialogue, stating it is great to naturally transition into difficult topics, like discussing depression.
- Ardelle and Emily Pickens shared that Healthy Start and DOH-Okaloosa can purchase pregnancy tests as an allowable expense.
- Bethany shared there is a Count the Kicks training on September 20th at noon. Emily will share the invite with the group.

Breastfeeding

- Donna shared she did outreach at Sage Wellness and Accension during the first three weeks of Breastfeeding Awareness Month.
 - The color run was rescheduled due to weather. It will now be held on October 7th at 10:00 a.m. Donna has 50 bags for participants with educational materials.
- Donna's virtual Breastfeeding class has had no absentees since classes began.
- DOH-Okaloosa WIC was awarded the Breastfeeding Award of Excellence from the National Workers Work Association for the Southeast Regional Office.
- Amarylis stated the owner of Laurens Legacy has requested resources regarding breastfeeding due to Mom's mixing formula incorrectly.
 - Bethany will get materials to her to share.
 - Emily Pickens suggested the group work on strengthening relationships with faith-based organizations. They could be a key partner to assist with supply formula.

Action Items- Emily Pickens

FIMR CAG

- Ardelle proposed the group send a cohesive message on social media using the Social Media Toolkit during SUIDs Awareness month in October.
 - Emily Pickens will share with the full OCHIP email listing.
- Danie will offer Safe Sleep training to Healthy Okaloosa Childcare partners.

Recipe for a Healthy Baby Distribution

- Danie will offer the Recipe for a Healthy Baby presentation to daycare providers.

Breastfeeding

- Bethany will provide resources to Amarylis for Laurens Legacy regarding breastfeeding and how to properly mix formula.

- Emily and Ardelle will discuss options to potentially move forward with supplying single-use pregnancy tests for women in need.

Open Discussion – All

- Danie Crowley followed up on the upward trend in maternal substance use. She contacted local methadone and suboxone clinics with minimal feedback.
 - Lakeview stated they had an influx of maternal substance use from 1-2 patients to 9 patients in a 9-month period.
 - The clinics suggested that the jail and emergency rooms have provided more handoffs, likely contributing to the influx of prenatal patients.
- Dr. Teresa Ryan shared that CALM House is funding seven town homes. She will share updates with the group as the project progresses.

Closing – Danie Crowley

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

Next Meeting – Thursday, November 9th at 3:00 PM at Northwest Florida State College

Action Items	Owners	Deadline	Status
Invite new partners needed for FIMR CAG	Ardelle Bush, Bethany Guillory	Ongoing	In Progress
Invite new members from Niceville Moms Groups on Facebook & doulas	Amarylis Emrick	11/9/2023	In Progress
Share Social Media Toolkit with group for SUIDS Awareness Month	Danie Crowley	10/2/2023	In Progress
Share Social Media Toolkit OCHIP DL for SUIDS Awareness Month	Emily Pickens	10/16/2023	Not started
Update Recipe for a Healthy Baby Training PPT and offer to childcare partners	Emily Pickens, Danie Crowley	11/9/2023	Not started
Work with HOFB Health Educator to engage faith-based members into the group	Emily Pickens, Emily Morgan, Danie Crowley, Lauren Hobbs	11/9/2023	Not started