

**REGIONAL HEALTH ALLIANCE**

**Maternal and Infant Health Commission**

**MEETING MINUTES**

**June 10, 2015**

**Members Present:** Mary Adkins, Mary Barkley, Michelle Datema, Jill Hardy, Cheryl Hinds, Megan Houtzmma, Patti Kelly, Diane Marquess, Angela Myers, Jessica Rapelje, Victoria Reese Kristin Roux, Sallie Shears, Erin Somerlott, Cindy Standish, Jennifer VanValkenburg, Jill Wise, Catie Zamarion, Linn Mahabir

1. **Welcome and Call to Order:** Meeting called to order at 8:00 a.m. by Sallie Shears.
2. **Approval of May Minutes:**

**Motion**: Approve May 2015 Minutes

Mary Barkley

Victoria Reese

Motion Carried

1. **Infant Safe Sleep**
   1. Mary Adkins from Tomorrow’s Child started with an overview of the “Expansion of Recommendations for a Safe Infant Sleep Environment”, October 2011. Adkins then discussed the Pediatric Clinic Infant Safe Sleep Study and its findings. At birth it appears that many women are following the guidelines for safe sleep. However, at the 3-4 month mark there is some backsliding and more women are engaging in bed sharing as well as placing the baby in a position other than on their back. Focus groups were done with African American and Native American women (these racial groups experienced higher numbers of infant deaths) to try and determine what changed over those first few months that altered the women’s behavior. Findings indicated that there was a need for new content for educational materials which explain the “why” of the guidelines; differentiate between adult comfort and infant comfort; emphasize same room, not same bed; and emphasize future problems (getting kids out of adult bed) as reason for not bed sharing. It was also found how important it is to acknowledge that not all babies are alike, anticipate challenges with infant sleep, and provide realistic solutions for comforting babies and getting them to sleep on their back.
   2. Patti Kelly, Infant Safe Sleep Program Coordinator for the MDHHS, provided data on infant safe sleep deaths in Michigan and Calhoun County. Calhoun County had the highest rate of SUID’s among black and white infants in the 2009-2013 cohort. Of sleep related deaths: 2 in 3 of the infants died before 3 months of age; average age of mother was 22 years old; 100% of the infants found unresponsive were in a position other than on their backs; and 50% of deaths involved an infant sharing a sleep surface with another person at the time of death. Current strategies to increase infant safe sleep include: increased awareness through media, social media, and doctor’s offices; the development of educational materials; trainings; and supporting local efforts through the infant safe sleep mini-grant program. Recommendations to local initiatives are to: use data to target your resources; explain the “why’s” behind the recommendations to moms; offer alternatives to bed-sharing; and involve the whole family.
2. **Items for Follow Up:**
   1. Jessica to send power point presentations from today’s meeting out to email list.
   2. Include Kristin and Erin on the next agenda to discuss local infant safe sleep data and activities.
3. **Next Meeting: Wednesday, July 8, 2015, 8:00am – 9:30am.**
4. **Meeting adjourned**

**Minutes submitted by: Linn Mahabir**

**Managed and Operated by the Battle Creek Community Foundation**

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