

**REGIONAL HEALTH ALLIANCE**

**Maternal and Infant Health Commission**

**MEETING MINUTES**

**March 11, 2015**

**Members Present:** Mary Barkley, Diana Buist, Michelle Datema, Cheryl Hinds, Linn Mahabir, Vivien McCurdy, Angela Myers, Jessica Rapelje, Victoria Reese, Kristin Roux, Sallie Shears, Cindy Standish, Jennifer VanValkenburg, Mallory Vredeveld, Jill Wise, Alberta Griffin

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

**Motion**: Approve February 2015 Minutes

Cheryl Hinds

Cindy Standish

Motion Carried

1. **Workgroup Updates:**
   1. **Pregnancy Care Workgroup** – The Period of Purple Crying video continues to be used at the hospitals. Baby Basic books are being distributed at OB offices in Calhoun County. 2015 the group’s goal is to move toward behavior change. The question is how to get women to use the Baby Basics books and take more responsibility for their healthcare. Meridian gave a contribution of 300 Baby Basics books. Group also plans to link *Born to Be* initiative with health education topics *Born to Read* and *Born to Learn*. May also have an initiative on *Born to be Fit* which will promote physical activity for pregnant women and new moms.
   2. **Home Visiting HUB** – In September 2013 this workgroup hosted an educational event in Battle Creek that brought together medical providers and home visiting agencies so the two groups could become better acquainted with each other. In May 2014 the education was repeated in Marshall for Albion/Marshall area providers. In December 2014 the school nurses were given the information. The Home Visitors brochure was distributed which is also available in Spanish and Burmese. Last week agencies from the HUB were trained in the Ages and Stages questionnaire. Kits will be going into Great Start classrooms. The state has requested that all HUB’s have a Local Leadership Group that includes parent input on home visiting. Susan Clark will be heading up the development of this leadership group. Sally will provide a contact number for a representative from the Envision Center. Would also be beneficial to have a parent of an autistic child be involved as integrating parent leaders is very important.
2. **Infant Mortality Data Presentation:** Berta Griffin, Epidemiologist with the Health Department provided a profile of births in Calhoun County from 2010-2012. The greatest risks for poor birth outcomes include race, STI’s (Herpes), premature birth, tobacco use during pregnancy, maternal weight management in pregnancy, and inadequate prenatal care. It was noted that when Sara Rockhill provided data she found that excessive weight gain was a protective factor. Berta will look into how Sara analyzed the data because this seemed counterintuitive. Overall, infant mortality is significantly lower in this three year cohort compared to previous cohorts. It was noted that stillbirths don’t have a death certificate so it is uncertain at this time if we will be able to access that data. Berta listed next steps as: early intervention and identification of mothers with STI’s, smoking cessation, early intervention with prenatal care, safe sleep education, and weight management in pregnancy. These next steps are in line with the goals of the MIHC.
3. **Other Business**
   1. We currently have a nutrition resource list and the question is where to take it next. It can go on the *Born to Be* website. It may be beneficial to put together a small group to consider next steps related to weight management for women of child bearing age. Next question is how to improve nutrition and health for pregnant women. MSU partners with Grace Health for Cooking Matters although it isn’t currently focused on pregnant women. Bronson Battle Creek also does cooking classes. MSU Extension may be able to provide insight in how to target nutrition resources for pregnant women. Meeting is scheduled prior to May MIHC meeting.
4. **Items for Follow Up:**
   * + Sallie will provide Michelle with a contact person at the Envision Center. Number was forwarded to Susan Clark invite to LLG meetings.
     + Berta will look into how Sara Rockhill found excessive weight gain to be a protective factor. Berta will look at stillbirth data for the county.
     + Vivien will see if she can access data on home visiting numbers from the state because she was told Calhoun County has one of the lowest number of pregnant women enrolled in MIHP.
     + Diana Buist will invite someone from MSU extension to participate in the workgroup on nutrition.
     + Discussion on coordination for women who are currently going to Kalamazoo for Gestational Diabetes treatment. Future discussion to determine how this work is best addressed.
5. **Next Meeting: Wednesday, May 13, 2015, 8:00am – 9:30am.**
6. **Meeting adjourned**

**Minutes submitted by: Linn Mahabir**

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

**34 West Jackson Street ▫ 2 Riverwalk Centre ▫ Battle Creek, MI 49017**

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