

**Leon County Health Care
Advisory Board**

**Year of the Healthy Infant
Report
April 17, 2008**

Action Plan

Short Term Goal: Decrease Black Infant Mortality in Leon County, which in 2006 was 15.0 per 1,000, to at least the level of the state rate of 12.9 per 1,000 by 2010.

Intermediate Goal: Decrease Black Infant Mortality in Leon County, which in 2006 was 15.0 per 1,000, to at least 10 per 1,000 by 2014.

Long Term Goal: Eliminate Racial Disparity in Infant Mortality in Leon County by 2018.

<p>Strategy 1: Ensure that African American preconception, interconception, and pregnant women have access to a quality system of care by:</p>
<p><i>Activity 1: Initiating and tracking culturally competent research regarding healthcare access and provision by developing, standardizing, and evaluating services to pregnant African American women. To accomplish this...</i></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FAMU College of Pharmacy will be responsible for seeking grants to fund this research to investigate the quality of the relationship between and their prenatal care providers. • The University of South Florida study on prenatal care and African American women in Gadsden, Leon and Pinellas Counties will be shared with the RD workgroup and HAB Board members. • The working group of MDs/nurses/midwives will continue to address the continuity of care, relationship between primary care docs, and prenatal doctors, and during prenatal care. This group will report to the HAB board semi-annually (June and December) on local trends. • Approximately 20% of African American women in Leon County do not enter prenatal care until after their first trimester. USF/Chiles Center will be responsible for researching the reasons why African American women are entering prenatal care late in pregnancy. Issues to be considered include Medicaid access, provider access, and possible attitudes and behaviors toward healthcare.

<p>Strategy 2: Address racism as a contributing factor to Black Infant Mortality by:</p>
<p><i>Activity 1: Educating prenatal providers on the effects racism has on pregnancy. To accomplish this...</i></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Florida Department of Health Office of Minority Health (Dr. Commodore) will be responsible for training providers concerning the effects on racism and the need for cultural competency
<p><i>Activity 2: Educating preconception, pregnant, and interconception African American women on the effects racism has on pregnancy. To accomplish this...</i></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Healthy Start will work in collaboration with WCL to provide training to local providers • Healthy Start, Healthy Families Leon, LCHD, DCF, Leon County Schools TAP program staff will provide education to clients in the community and at FAMU • Healthy Start will work in collaboration with LCHD & WCL to offer training specifically with

local African American women's groups, church groups, etc.

Strategy 3: Address poverty as a contributing factor to Black Infant Mortality by:

Activity 1: Addressing restrictions to Medicaid as a limitation to receiving quality services. To accomplish this....

- DCF will work to simplify the system of women signing up for Medicaid once they become pregnant and communicate changes in the system with WCL partners.
- The Healthcare Advisory Board (HAB) in collaboration with the HAB OB/Pediatric Work and legislative infant mortality coalition will develop a unified message regarding Medicaid with crisp articulation of risk. Points to be included in this message include: Extending coverage for any woman who has had a LBW delivery to 2 years postpartum; opposing any cuts to Medicaid; Increasing Medicaid reimbursement rates for maternal and infant healthcare services.

Activity 2: Ensure a system of training for poor women and men to ensure that they have adequate income and/or education and training to care for their families

- WCL, City of Tallahassee, Workforce Development and DCF will map out the system of employment, training, and educational services and opportunities available for poor women with the goal being to identify gaps in services and/or advocate and market programs that currently exist and may be underutilized.

Activity 3: Businesses seeking to come to Leon County will be assessed based on their provision of healthcare benefits and potential impact on community health. .

- WCL will work in collaboration with the Tallahassee Chamber to identify and monitor new businesses coming into the area and assess their potential impact on the healthcare of Leon County citizens.
- Encourage the City and County as a part of comprehensive Urban Planning evaluated the impact of proposals on health care accessibility, affordability and community health

Strategy 4: Ensure that preconception, pregnant, and interconception women have appropriate services and support by:

Activity 1: Providing education on healthy behaviors by focusing on known contributors to infant death such as maternal infection, poor pre-pregnancy health, and factors that disproportionately affect the African American community like obesity and douching. To accomplish this....

- Healthy Start & LCHD will be responsible for providing health education to community members, pregnant women, and women preconception and interconception.
- Healthy Start will train local trainers to provide Health Education in the community.
- Health care providers and health support professionals (e.g. Healthy Start and Healthy Families) will create a mechanism for interacting with one another to insure all issues related to a positive birth outcome are addressed during prenatal care.

Activity 2: Eliminate barriers to breastfeeding with African American women as breastfeeding has been shown to reduce postneonatal Black infant mortality by 21% and African American women breastfeed at a lower rate than White women. To accomplish this...

- FAMU College of Pharmacy in collaboration with Capital Area Breastfeeding Task Force will research barriers to local African American who breastfeed with the goal being to address those barriers and implement solutions that will eliminate the disparities based on race and income. This should include focus groups in the community, churches, WIC, LCHD, Hospitals, etc.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WCL will research the number of local businesses who are breastfeeding friendly and the number of local facilities that have breastfeeding rooms with the goal being to increase the number of local businesses who are breastfeeding friendly and that have breastfeeding rooms.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capital Area Breastfeeding Task Force will investigate the requirements for the local hospitals to become Baby Friendly Hospitals and will provide that information to the local hospitals.
<p><i>Activity 3: Involve Local Employers on the importance of breastfeeding. To accomplish this...</i></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WCL will research the number of employers who offer paid maternity leave with the goal being to reward employers who offer paid maternity leave and increase the number of employers who offer maternity leave.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WCL in collaboration with the Capital Area Breastfeeding Task Force will create a speakers bureau to educate employers on the importance of being supportive of pregnancy and breastfeeding. • Work closely with the WCL Socio/Emotional workgroup to distribute information on the important link between mother/child bonding and breastfeeding.

Goal: Decrease the number of premature deliveries for Leon County residents, which in 2006 was 469, by 5% per year by the year 2012.

Strategy 1: Provide public health education in schools, churches, community centers by
Activity 1: Training Faith Community health ministries, LCS teachers and staff, colleges and universities, and members of the broader community on healthy behaviors by focusing on known contributors of infant death such as poor pre-pregnancy health. To accomplish this...
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Healthy Start will work in collaboration with WCL, Healthy Families Leon, LCHD, DCF to provide health education to community members, preconception, pregnant, and interception women • Healthy Start will train local trainers to provide Health Education in the community.
Activity 2: Educating providers on signs and symptoms of preterm labor.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Healthy Start will train local prenatal providers. • March of Dimes will distribute information to OB/GYN providers' offices
Activity 3: Educating the community on the importance of folic acid during childbearing years and provide folic acid vitamins to 3,300 women per year for three years.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LCHD/WCL will research funding opportunities to provide folic acid • LCHD will distribute folic acid to women of childbearing years who are LCHD clients • MOD will engage in a public awareness campaign on folic acid
Activity 4: Providing and promoting smoking cessation programs in the community
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LCHD and the Big Bend AHEC will continue providing SC classes • Tallahassee Democrat will list SC classes on community calendar

Strategy 2: Address parent responsibility (self advocacy and self care) by
Activity 1: Offering parenting and child/infant basics courses. To accomplish this...
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Healthy Start & LCHD will provide parenting and baby basics classes to the public at least 2 times per year. Evaluations on courses will be provided.
Activity 2: Educating the community on costs associated with having a child, importance of baby spacing, and how to support women, fathers and families during pregnancy. To accomplish this...
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Healthy Start & LCHD will distribute facts and figures on parenting at FAMU, FSU, TCC, Healthy Start offices • Healthy Start will provide the community with 100 acts of kindness towards a pregnant woman
Activity 3: Encourage men and women to self-assess their support systems before having a baby
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leon County Schools to teach Life Management Skills prior to high school graduation • Healthy Start and Leon County Schools will work to provide age and developmentally appropriate wellness education

Strategy 3: Provide affordable, comprehensive and accessible prenatal care
Activity 1: Providing 17-P Progesterone (\$320) for women with previous preterm delivery (weekly injection). Medicaid currently does not cover this medicine, which must be compounded. To accomplish this...
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. David Dixon will advocate for Medicaid coverage of this drug or identify alternative funding sources.

<p><i>Activity 2: Advocacy is needed for priority care if there is a high risk pregnancy. (endocrinologists, cardiologists, etc.) A code of payment will be developed by WeCare. To accomplish this We Care staff will assist in developing a system of timely access to specialty physicians.</i></p>
<p><i>Identifying adjunctive funding for ancillary care-providers during high-risk pregnancy (internists)</i></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• OGYN/Midwife will be responsible for developing new diagnosis codes of payments for pregnant patients.

Goal: Reduce the Number of Infant Deaths associated with maternal infection (as evidenced by the incidence of maternal infections tested, detected, and reported during pregnancy) by 15% (at 5% per year) by the year 2012.

Strategy 1: Provide public health education in schools, churches, community centers by
<i>Activity 1: Increasing the number of health educators. To accomplish this...</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Healthy Start will explore funding opportunities • Healthy Start will train community volunteers and professionals through the Health Education Network
<i>Activity 2: Engaging in a public awareness campaign for both consumers and providers on how to access resources to include identifying messages for target populations and developing a uniform message. The message will address how to access Healthy Start services, dental services, signs of preterm labor, and risks associated with douching. To accomplish this...</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The HAB Board will identify potential partners in the public awareness campaign. Suggested partners include Healthy Start, Leon County Health Department, and the Florida Public Relations Association • WCL and Dept. Children & Families will be responsible for distributing the message • WCL will be responsible for developing a roadmap of the system of care • WCL will ensure that the information is shared with local providers
<i>Activity 3: Actively involving Leon County Schools. To accomplish this...</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WCL Steering Committee will be responsible for engaging the School Superintendent to explore expanding the Health Education in the schools

Strategy 2: Provide provider education to local providers by
<i>Activity 1: Charting and Sharing the Road Map of the System of Care and the No Wrong Door culture. To accomplish this...</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WCL will identify local providers and distribute the system of care and WCL information
<i>Activity 2: Identifying provider training needs and develop training curricula using provider expertise. To accomplish this...</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Healthy Start will assess provider training needs through the FIMR Case Review Team (CRT) meetings and feedback. Healthy Start will involve consumers, CMS Professionals, Midwives, advance Practice Council, Dental Society, FSU Nursing and Medical Schools, FAMU School of Pharmacy, Nursing, Social Work and Public Health in these assessments.

Strategy 3: Provide dental treatment for periodontal disease and focus on prevention by:
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<i>Activity 1: Distributing Brush for Babies/Healthy Smile Kits in the Community and provide dental screening to accomplish this...</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Healthy Start will be responsible for developing and distributing Brush for Babies/Healthy Smile Kits across the community • Healthy Start and other local agencies will be responsible for identifying funding to continue the distribution of kits. • LCHD will continue to provide dental screenings to pregnant women enrolled in the Healthy Start Program • Consider involvement of the TCC dental hygiene program • Utilize the Leon County Dental Associations “Project Dental Care”(coordinated through We Care)
<i>Activity 2: Researching reasons for not getting dental care. To accomplish this....</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WeCare will be responsible for researching barriers to obtaining dental care • Whole Child Leon and WeCare will assess the availability of dental care in Leon County
<i>Activity 3: Providing dental care to young children. To accomplish this....</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leon County Health Department, Head Start, the Dental Society, and TCC will be responsible for providing dental care to young children.
<i>Activity 4: Developing a road map for the system of care for dental services by the Dental Association and We Care</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whole Child Leon and We Care will decide on the best mechanism for getting this information to the caregivers and pregnant women.

Strategy 4: Ensure that affordable and accessible medical services and prescriptions are provided by...
<i>Activity 1: Promote increased access to health care. To accomplish this...</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whole Child Leon and Faith Community will promote expanded access to health care in Leon county
<i>Activity 2: Providing parish nursing locally</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tallahassee Pediatric Foundation will explore the concept of parish nursing so that services reach more community members • Healthy Start will be responsible for providing training and health education to nurses
<i>Activity 3: Providing transportation at STAR Metro office</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Jim Stockwell and We Care Program will negotiate with city about providing a Social Worker at the Star Metro office that specializes in transportation for health care needs (City of Tallahassee?)

Goal: Decrease the number of unsafe infant sleeping deaths in Leon County, which in 2005 was 3, to 0 (by 1 death per year over 3 years) by the year 2012.

Strategy 1: Provide public health education in schools, churches, community centers focused on abuse, prevention, health education and awareness of second hand smoke by
<i>Activity 1: Providing a series of CDs/DVDs to families regarding safe sleep, positions, and safe environments. To accomplish this...</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leon County Health Department, Healthy Families Leon, WCL, DCF will identify and distribute materials • Hospitals and providers will distribute materials • The Capital City Garden Club, National Hook Up of Black Women, BET, MTV, Hospital TV, FSU/FAMU school of Journalism, CCYS, and CHS will distribute materials
<i>Activity 2: Incorporating health education messages into current Leon County School's curriculum. To accomplish this...</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LCHD will be responsible for engaging the School Superintendent to explore the Health Education in the schools
<i>Activity 3: Training Faith Community on health education messages</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Faith based work group (C&F, HS, WCL) will be responsible for identifying members of the Faith Community that are interested in participating in the Health Education Network. • Faith based work group will be responsible for training interested Faith Community on Health Education

Strategy 2: Provide education to health care providers, hospitals (for families at discharge) focused on family abuse/prevention, health education, and second hand smoke by
<i>Activity 1: Engaging lactation consultants and health care providers on developing a consistent message. To accomplish this...</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • _____ will bring together representatives from both hospitals, La Leche League, Birth Cottage, Pediatricians and Family practitioners, representatives from CHP and the Pediatric Foundation to develop a unified message.
<i>Activity 2: Providing home visiting to families and sharing risks of second hand smoke. To accomplish this...</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Healthy Start, Healthy Families Leon, Leon County Health Department and Bond, will provide home visits to families
<i>Activity 3: Providing training opportunities to providers through conferences, web casts, grand rounds, and brown bag roundtable lunches</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DCF and Healthy Start will be responsible for identifying training opportunities focused on unsafe infant sleep for local providers

Goal: Reduce the number of infant deaths associated with mother’s poor pre-pregnancy health (as evidenced by incidence of obesity, incidence of maternal infection, and incidence of substance abuse) by 15% (at 5% per year for 3 years) by the year 2012.

Strategy 1: Provide optimal health promotion focused on obesity, nutrition, substance abuse prevention, and physical activity through education in schools, churches, and community centers by
<i>Activity 1: Disseminating community resource information and health education. To accomplish this...</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LCHD will be responsible for providing resource materials to parents and the broader community. • DCF (Pat Smith) and WCL (Terri Sue Aldridge Russell) will be responsible for creating a speakers bureau and coordinate outreach efforts • WCL will be responsible for creating and maintaining a Health education website
<i>Activity 2: Providing health education in the churches and community centers. To accomplish this...</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LCHD & Healthy Start and Healthy Families Leon will be responsible for providing health education to community members, preconception, pregnant, and interception women • Healthy Start will train local trainers to provide Health Education in the community.
<i>Activity 3: Providing family planning and sex education information</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LCHD & Healthy Start will be responsible for targeting the colleges and universities and the appropriate personnel at Leon County Schools to provide outreach and health education
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LCHD & Healthy Start will be responsible for targeting the local housing authority and Department of Health to provide health education

Strategy 2: Provide affordable and accessible physical/mental health care (affordable health insurance and access to transportation) by
<i>Activity 1: Providing transportation vouchers for medical checkups. The voucher could be used as an incentive for women to access well woman care. To accomplish this...</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HAB will be responsible for researching potential costs with the City, Leon County, and Star Metro. • HAB will be responsible for identifying agencies to disseminate the vouchers
<i>Activity 2: Utilizing the mobile health screening unit for health screenings. The mobile health unit may be able to offer transportation vouchers for those needing follow up care. To accomplish this...</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HAB will be responsible for exploring this possibility with Leon County Health Department (mobile unit). • HAB will also investigate the possibility of the mobile unit being a “one-stop shop” whereby patients receive screenings, receive a referral for follow up services if necessary, schedule an appointment with a local provider, and arrange transportation

<i>Activity 3: Including mental health/substance abuse screenings in conjunction with the physical health screenings. To accomplish this...</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• HAB will be responsible for exploring this possibility with Leon County Health Department, Neighborhood Health, Bond Clinic, DISC Village, and Apalachee
<i>Activity 4: Increasing access to primary health care. The HAB and its partners will be responsible for exploring all opportunities and sources for increased funding of primary care.</i>