

# Best Start For Babies OAKLAND COUNTY

## MEETING MINUTES

May 18, 2023

### **Members Present:**

Kate Barlow-OCHD  
Kate Beszka-OCHD  
Melinda Blesch-OCHD  
Sekvette Burbank-OFS  
Francheska Carnacchi-OCHD  
Michelle Carter-Trinity Health Oakland Hospital  
Sherrie Cook-OCHD  
Leigh Coyle-OCHD  
Kristen Crosty-OCHD  
Samantha DeMont-OCHD  
Reginald Day-Priority Health  
Anna Dillaway-Oakland community Health Network  
Ruth Dargary-OCHD  
Jennifer Floyd-OCHD  
Tamara Gordon-OCHD  
Linda Graves-OCHD  
Lisa Hahn-OCHD  
Sheila Hare-OCHD  
Khalia Hill-OCHD  
Alexandrea Isreal-Oakland County Local Leadership Group  
Javon Jamison-Meridian Health Plan  
Tammie Liford-OCHD  
Todd Lipa-CARES of FH  
Rita Little-Conewell Health  
Gloria Lutey-OCHD  
Flavia Maccio-Great Start Collaborative-Oakland  
Mary Mackinnon-OCHD  
Michele Maloff-OCHD  
Sue Martinez-OCHD  
Mary McClain-OCHD  
Elizabeth Miller-OCHD  
Deborah Polito-OCHD  
Jessica Ramsay-Gleaners  
Marybeth Reader-OCHD  
Amanda Richardson-OCHD  
Anne Ronk-OCHD  
David Roth-OCHD  
Katie Smedley-OCHD

Julie Traicoff-OCHD  
Heather Trajkovski-OCHD  
Bria Tucker-OCHD  
Virginia Uhley- Oakland University School of Medicine  
Amanda Vagts-OCHD  
Angela Varela-OCHD  
Carole Walsh-OCHD  
Monique Whittaker-NFP Mom/Client  
Phyllis Samsky-Weber  
Joann Wrobel-OCHD  
Lauren-Oakland Family Services

### **Welcomes and Introductions –Lisa Hahn**

Lisa welcomed members new and old.

### **Updates:**

#### **Flavia Maccio-Great Start Collaborative**

Flavia announced they will be hosting a drive-thru health event at Oakland Schools on June 3<sup>rd</sup>. There will be different kits available for children ages 0-5 years. Townhall for the 2024-2017 years. Health partners will be coming together for maternal health.

#### **Lisa Hahn-OCHD**

Lisa spoke about the infant Vitality Grant. They want to know what is working well. In 2019 there was the lowest number of infant deaths, but still a high rate of disparity. They want to know what the community needs. Four focus groups have been completed at this point. LGBTQ, Fathers, Special needs and Hispanic. The in-person meeting will be on July 20<sup>th</sup> from 11-12. It will also include the ability to network with other partners.

#### **Michele Maloff –OCHD-Nurse Family Partnership**

Michele reported that the teams parent involvement has been great! The team has been working on hosting 3-4 events per year. Today the team is hosting a picnic in the park for their families. The parents have really enjoyed being to provide input on the upcoming events.

The state is working on a CQI training session for the parents. The CQI project for the team is taking health equity to the next level. Currently, we are exploring a health equity toolkit. Oakland County is developing the toolkit and NFP may be the pilot for it.

#### **Kate Beszka- OCHD-WIC**

Kate discussed how WIC operates. It's considered a supplemental food program. Each participant is allotted between \$50-\$100 per month. There are 8 WIC locations throughout Oakland County, and they also partner with OLHSA.

Kate explained in more detail who they serve, benefits and income guidelines. New moms are eligible for different packages based on if they are breastfeeding and delivery method. The staff are in the different offices throughout the week. Monday thru Wednesday they are in Pontiac. Tuesday and Thursday they are in Southfield and Tuesday and Friday they are in Walled Lake.

### **Todd Lipa-CARES in Farmington Hills**

CARES (Community Action Resources Empowerment Services) is a food pantry that services various locations throughout the county. They purchase food from Gleaners and other community partners. They hope to have a WIC store in the future. They do have emergency boxes.

They operate with a small staff and expressed their concern about the number of families needing services and they are hopeful they can keep up with the need.

### **Jessica Ramsay- Gleaners Community Food Bank**

Gleaners is also a food pantry that services five counties throughout Michigan. They strive to provide all homes with healthy food and nutritional education along with cooking matters programs. Their goal is for a hunger free community. Gleaners has seen an increase in rates of food insecurities post covid.

They are now working with a mobile food distribution unit. Additional information on this can be found at [pantrynet.org](http://pantrynet.org).

Organization and host classes, workshops or tours at any facility. If interested, please call 888-544-8773. Lastly, recipes are available on the website.

### **Joanne Wrobel-OCHD-Nutrition Services**

Joanne presented on the nutrition services that her team provides. Those eligible are pregnant women, post-partum moms and infants up to 18 years of age with a medical condition that effects their nutrition. Those on Snap, WIC, Medicaid are eligible, but that is not mandatory. Lastly, Joanne explained the importance of nutrition in the first 1000 days of a baby's life.

### **David Roth- OCHD-FIMR**

Dave reported that there have been 4 sleep related infant deaths this year. We have seen an increase in Oakland County as well as surrounding counties and most sleep deaths are related to co-sleeping. In addition, it has been discovered that 4 out of 5

deaths involved the father of the baby. He asked if anyone is aware of any Men's groups in the area.

Dave asked if any organization would like to participate in support of other groups with models and displays. We also have Facebook posts that can be shared.

Lisa asked the community members to get involved. She stated that creating awareness helps.

**Next Meeting**

Thursday, July 20, 2023 at Oaklands Schools