

An Important Town Hall Meeting on **BLACK INFANT MORTALITY**

A Healthy Baby Begins with YOU!

Celebrating a baby's birth should be a joyous and momentous time for a family. Unfortunately the celebration ends too soon when a baby doesn't live to see his first birthday. Black babies in Miami-Dade County are dying at two and a half times the rate of white babies.

It is time to address the racial disparities in fetal and infant mortality in Miami-Dade County.

We are asking all community stakeholders - legislators, business executives, and local decision makers to be present to learn how we can impact this critical issue TOGETHER.

WE NEED YOUR INPUT TO IMPROVE THE HEALTH OF OUR BABIES. Every baby is our responsibility!

**Black Infant Mortality Town Hall Meeting
Wednesday, July 16, 2008, 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.**

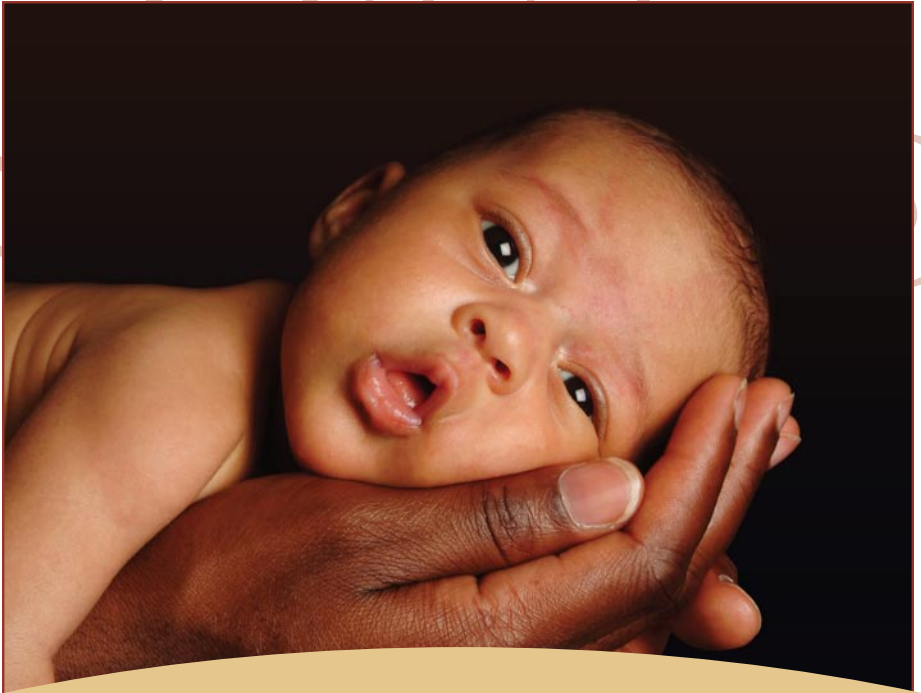
African Cultural Arts Center

6161 NW 22nd Avenue • Miami, FL 33142

To RSVP, and for more information, please call
305-541-0210 or visit our website at
www.hscmd.org and click on Training Registration.



A Healthy Baby Begins with You



BLACK INFANT MORTALITY Town Hall Meeting

African Heritage Cultural Arts Center

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Message From the President Board of Directors, Healthy Start Coalition of Miami-Dade



In 2007, the Legislature passed and Governor Charlie Crist signed House Bill 1269, creating the Black Infant Health Practice Initiative (BIHPI), a statewide practice collaborative to address the issue of racial disparity in infant deaths in Florida. The purpose of this legislation was to determine the medical and social factors contributing to the elevated rates of death among Black infants in Florida, to develop community-based strategies and to recommend policy changes at the local and state level to address the disparity.

Eight Healthy Start Coalitions around the state are engaged in the Black Infant Health Practice Initiative. Of the many efforts in which each Coalition is involved relating to BIHPI, the most primary is community engagement and mobilization. Today's Town Hall Meeting is part of that the Healthy Start Coalition of Miami-Dade's efforts to "raise the alarm" about black infant mortality in Miami-Dade County.

We recognize that many of you have other obligations and responsibilities, and are especially encouraged by your interest and participation here today. This meeting is intended to provide you with information and to encourage your support and commitment. Please use this as an opportunity to find out what you need to know or to clarify any questions or concerns. Eradicating racial disparities in infant mortality is possible and critically important. But it will require an unflinching, widespread commitment. As Martin Luther King Jr. said, "Human progress is neither automatic nor inevitable. ... Every step toward the goal of justice requires sacrifice, suffering, and struggle; the tireless exertions and passionate concern of dedicated individuals." We invite our business leaders, elected officials, and other concerned members of our community to join us to learn how we can impact this critical issue TOGETHER. Thank you in advance for your commitment to eliminating the adverse health outcomes that are impacting Black mothers and babies in Miami-Dade County.

Welcome and thank you for attending this Town Hall Meeting.

**WE NEED YOUR INPUT TO IMPROVE THE HEALTH OF
OUR BABIES.**

Kalenthia Nunnally

Kalenthia Nunnally
President, Board of Directors
Healthy Start Coalition of Miami-Dade

Agenda

Prayer	Rev. Dr. Billy W.L. Strange, Jr. <i>Pastor, Mt. Calvary Missionary Baptist Church</i>
Welcome and Introductions	Kalenthia Nunally <i>President, Board of Directors, Healthy Start Coalition of Miami-Dade</i> Rodney Baltimore <i>Radio Personality, Hot 105 FM</i>
Music Selection	Voices of Calvary Choir
Special Message <i>From the Miami-Dade County Commission</i>	Comm. Audrey E. Edmonson <i>Miami-Dade County Commissioner, District 3</i>
Black Infant Mortality: <i>The National Perspective</i>	Diane Rowley, MD, MPH <i>Professor, Dept. of Maternal & Child Health UNC School of Public Health</i>
Black Infant Mortality: <i>The Local Perspective</i>	Diana Sierra, MPH <i>Consultant, Black Infant Health Practice Initiative</i>
Panel Presentations by:	
	Nelson Adams, MD, F.A.C.O.G. <i>President, National Medical Association</i>
	James Bridges, MD <i>Former President, Dade County Medical Association</i>
	Mark Spence, MD, F.A.C.O.G. <i>OB/GYN, Full Circle Health Care</i>
	David Brown, MD <i>Family Medicine and Community Health, University of Miami, Miller School of Medicine</i>
	Annie Neasman, MS <i>President/CEO of Jessie Trice Community Health Center</i>
	Erin O’Connell, MPH <i>Miami-Dade County Health Department, Dept. of Epidemiology</i>
	Karen Weller, RN, BSN, ICCE <i>Director of the Office of Community Health and Planning, Miami-Dade County Health Dept.</i>
Q & A	Audience and Panelists
Call to Action	All
Closing Remarks	Tamara Taitt <i>Communications & Programs Specialist Healthy Start Coalition of Miami-Dade</i>

Audrey M. Edmonson



On December 22, 2005, Audrey Edmonson was appointed by the Miami-Dade County Commission to represent the constituents of District Three. On September 5, 2006, the electors of the district voted overwhelmingly to retain her in that position. Her district includes areas of the City of Miami, including the communities of Liberty City, Little Haiti, Overtown, the Upper East Side, Allapattah and Wynwood, as well as El Portal, Miami Shores and a portion of North Miami.

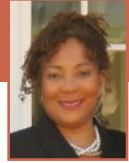
Born and raised in Liberty City, Commissioner Edmonson became active in local politics by first serving as Mayor of the Village of El Portal in 1999. She was re-elected Mayor by the Village Council in 2002 and 2003 and in November 2004, she became the municipality's first mayor to be elected by residents rather than by the members of the Village Council.

Since her arrival on the Miami-Dade County Board of County Commissioners, Commissioner Edmonson has initiated legislation urging the U.S. Congress to restore temporary protective status to Nicaraguans, Salvadorans and Hondurans, sponsored legislation banning the use of chains and shackles on detained children and co-sponsored legislation urging Congress to reconsider its Cuban wet-foot dry-foot policy. Most recently, Commissioner Edmonson sponsored legislation creating the Magic City Children's Zone which will provide a network of support for at-risk children and families in the zone through support systems ranging in prenatal care and education to financial literacy and homeownership in adulthood.

Commissioner Audrey M. Edmonson currently serves as Chairperson of the Economic Development and Human Services Committee tasked with the oversight of opportunities for economic, community and social viability for Miami-Dade residents. She is also a member of the Governmental Operations and Environment; Recreational and Cultural Affairs and Transit committees. She represents Miami-Dade County representatives on the Florida Association of Counties, the Homeless Trust and the Downtown Development Authority.

Commissioner Edmonson resides in El Portal and is active in several charitable, women's and community organizations.

Dr. Diane Rowley, MD, MPH



Dr. Rowley received her medical degree from Meharry Medical College and her Masters in Public Health from Harvard School of Public Health. She completed her Pediatric Residency at the Medical College of Virginia and her Preventive Medicine Residency at the Centers for Disease and Control and Prevention.

Currently a professor in the Department of Maternal and Child Health at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, School of Public Health, Dr. Rowley formed the Research Center on Health Disparities at Morehouse College. She has an extensive history with the National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion of the Center for Disease Control and Prevention where she served as the Associate Director for Science and Deputy Branch Chief of the Pregnancy and Infant Health Branch of the Division of Reproductive Health.

A Fellow of the American College of Epidemiology, American College of Preventive Medicine, and the American Academy of Pediatrics, Dr. Rowley is also a member of the American Public Health Association, the Society for the Study of African American Public Health Issues, the National Medical Association and the Society for Pediatric Epidemiologic Research.

Author of a variety of publications on the topic of infant mortality and racial and ethnic disparities in reproductive and perinatal outcomes, Dr. Rowley is a founding member of the Board of Directors of the National Black Women's Health Project and serves on the National Advisory Board of the Study Aboard Program in Public Health of the School for International Training. Dr. Rowley has been the recipient of many awards in the field of Public Health including the US Public Health Service Commissioned Corps Meritorious and Outstanding Service Medals.

WHAT IS THE BLACK INFANT HEALTH PRACTICE INITIATIVE?

The mission of the Black Infant Health Practice Initiative (BIHPI) is to eliminate health disparities in black infant deaths in Florida.

WHAT ARE DISPARITIES?

- Bad Housing
- Family Support
- Hopelessness
- Poor Working Conditions
- Bad Neighborhoods
- Limited Access to Healthcare
- Poverty
- Social Policy
- Racism
- Weathering Unemployment
- Lack of Access to Good Nutrition
- Adverse Environmental Conditions
- Under-Education
- Smoking
- Stress

“It is my aspiration that health finally will be seen not as a blessing to be wished for, but as a human right to be fought for.”

—United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan

DID YOU KNOW?

- Miami-Dade County’s overall infant mortality rate was 6.5 deaths per 1,000 live births.
Data Source: Florida Dept of Health, Office of Planning Evaluation & Data
- The death rate for black infants was 11.5 deaths per 1,000 live births, compared to 4.7 white infant deaths per 1,000 live births.
Data Source: Florida Dept of Health, Office of Planning Evaluation & Data
- From 2005 to 2006, there was a 20% increase in the rate of Black babies who died in Miami-Dade County
Source: Florida Vital Statistics 2006
- 1 out of every 7 Black babies in Miami-Dade County is born premature.
Source: Florida Vital Statistics 2006
- Prematurity is the leading cause of death for babies in the first year of life.
Source: Florida Vital Statistics 2006
- Black women in Miami-Dade County have a rate of infection with sexually transmitted diseases (STD) 8 times the rate of White women.
Source: Florida Vital Statistics 2006
- STD’s in pregnant women are associated with a low birth weight baby or infant death. STD’s can be treated during pregnancy which can reduce those outcomes.
Source: Florida Vital Statistics 2006
- 56% of Black women who lost a baby were overweight or obese.
Source: 2003-2007 Pediatric Autopsy Study

MANY THANKS TO...

...the dedicated Individuals who are part of the Community Action Team for their ongoing commitment to eliminating the adverse health outcomes that are impacting Black mothers and babies in Miami-Dade County.

**Miami-Dade County
Health Department**

Dade County Medical Association

Health Council of South Florida

Miami North-Early Steps Program

**Division of Neonatology at the
Department of Pediatrics
University of**

Miami-Miller School of Medicine

**Baptist Health South
Florida-CHAMP**

Tuff Love, Inc.

**The Miami-Dade Family Learning
Partnership, Inc.**

The Children's Trust

The March of Dimes

YWCA of Greater Miami-Dade, Inc.

**Institute for Child and
Family Health, Inc.**

Bellymama Midwifery

Family Central, Inc.

Kids Hope United

Miami Maternity Center

**James Wilson Bridges, M.D.
Medical Society**

Spirit of Life Midwifery

Children's Home Society of Florida-SE

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP?

Each county was charged with determining the social, economic, safety and health system factors that are associated with racial disparities in infant mortality in their community. Based on this community-based research, the communities are charged with developing a series of interventions and policies that are designed to address the disparity factors associated with infant deaths.

If you are interested in becoming a member of the Miami-Dade Community Action Team (CAT) and taking an active role in addressing this critical issue in our community, email BIHPI@hscmd.org

“This is about social justice. Infant mortality is a measure of social well-being, not just health, and not just access to health care. Poverty and economics and nutrition and exposure to environmental factors all play a role. We have to look at the whole picture.”

-Hani Atrash, MD. Associate Director for Program Development, National Center of Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and lead for the CDC Preconception Health and Health Care Initiative.

Celebrating a baby's birth should be a joyous and momentous time for a family. Unfortunately, the celebration ends too soon when a baby doesn't live to see his first birthday. Infant mortality rates among African Americans are more than double that of the United States as a whole. That's more than 7,500 infant deaths per year. A Black woman living in Miami-Dade County is two and a half times more likely than her white neighbor to have her baby die in the first year of life.

Step up and help end infant mortality!

