



CHILDREN'S TRUST
OF ALACHUA COUNTY

WORKSHOP ON MATERNAL CHILD HEALTH INITIATIVES MINUTES

August 12, 2024 at 1:30 PM

Alachua Co. Health Dept., T. Coward Auditorium, 224 SE 24th St., Gainesville, FL 32641

Call to Order

Roll Call

PRESENT

Chair Lee Pinkoson

Vice Chair Ken Cornell – attended virtually

Treasurer Cheryl Twombly – attended virtually

Member Nancy Hardt – attended virtually

Member Tina Certain – arrived at 1:58pm

Member Maggie Labarta

ABSENT

Member Shane Andrew

Member Mary Chance

Member Judge Denise R. Ferrero

Chair Pinkoson called the meeting to order at 1:36 PM.

Agenda Review, Revision and Approval

A quorum was not physically present; therefore no motions were made in this meeting.

Discussion

1. Status of Maternal, Infant and Child Health in Alachua County

Early Childhood Coordinator Mia Jones informed the Board that this was the first of two workshops to discuss Maternal Child Health in advance of an RFP to be released in the next few months. She discussed the current status of Maternal and Child Health in Alachua County, CTAC's current investments in the community, the gaps and concerns in offered care, and ideas and next steps for future funding.

Julie Moderie, Chief Operations Officer of WellFlorida Council and Program Director with Healthy Start gave a presentation on current trends, fetal and infant mortality review findings, bereavement services and support after a loss, Healthy Starts's prenatal and infant screening rates, and the Trust-funded NewboRNhome visiting services. She also discussed Healthy Start's strategic plan, recent achievements, and future

objectives. She presented state and county data on items such as birth rates, interpregnancy intervals, pre-natal care, rates of low birth weight, pre-term birth, rates of mortality and morbidity, as well as statistics on education level, poverty level, marital status and insurance coverage.

Board members asked questions about how lack of insurance coverage or Medicaid affects pre-natal care, how maternal age affects interpregnancy intervals, whether the data accounted for planned vs. unplanned pregnancies, and the inequitable process of recording paternity on birth certificates.

Healthy Start did in-depth reviews on 15 individual fetal and infant death cases in Alachua County between February 2023 - June 2024 and were able to cross-reference various factors such as race, income, insurance, education, age, partner support vs. marital status, and history of maternal physical (e.g. previous pregnancy complications, infections, smoking or addition history, obesity) and mental health (e.g. postpartum depression, anxiety, depression) etc. Of the 15 cases, 66% were unintended pregnancies, 60% were low income, 86% of mothers had at least a high school education or GED, 80% were unmarried, 40% had anxiety, 73% had medical complications or infection during pregnancy, 53% were positive for an STI, and 40% were overweight or obese.

The NewboRN Home Visiting Program is free and available to all women who give birth in Alachua County. Ms. Moderie shared the rates of intake screenings, referrals, and home assessments separated by race (Black and White/Other) and zip codes in Alachua County.

There were 2,664 total births and 1,572 (59%) completed intakes. Out of the completed intakes, 611 (38%) led to completed assessments, however of the total births, only 23% had completed in-home assessments.

There were 797 births with a recorded race of Black, which comprised nearly 30% of the total births. Of those, 488 (61%) completed the intake process, and 182 (nearly 29%) completed the in-home assessment.

There were 1,867 births with a recorded race of White/Other, which comprised 70% of the total births. Of those, 1,084 (nearly 69%) completed the intake process, and 429 (39%) completed the in-home assessment.

Member Certain expressed the importance of demographic representation within this program. More recent data shows an overall increase in the number of completed in-home assessments.

General Public Comments

Adjournment

Chair Pinkoson adjourned the meeting at 3:45 PM.