HEALTHY START

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October – March 2011 Volume 5, Issue 2

Leadership Update *by Dixie Morgese*

Dear Community Partners,

We hope you enjoy this semi-annual newsletter. This has been an exciting and industrious time for Healthy Start. Our Fetal and Infant Mortality Case Review Team (FIMR/CRT) has been very active and we are reaching out to families and providers to tell the story of safe sleep and distribute cribs and pack n' plays.

Our Healthy Families team held an inspiring graduation for twenty-seven families who successful completed the program and the Junior League held another fantastic community baby shower and is gearing up for another one shortly.

Dixie Morgese & Lauren Rowe

On February 28th we held our Annual Meeting at the Museum of Arts and Sciences in Daytona Beach and received a beautiful keynote address by Lauren Rowe, anchorwoman from Channel 6 News. During the Annual Meeting, we also introduced Lifesong – a community engagement program that incorporates storytelling, music, dance and images to mobilize people around reducing health disparities.

We thank all those who attended and participated with a special thanks to Melanie – our program participant who had the courage to share her story with us toward the conclusion of our meeting. I believe it is extremely important for the community to hear the voices of the families who triumph despite challenges and obstacles. I commend the workers and providers who serve them each day. It was really nice to have time to honor them as well.

As I write this letter, I am preparing to travel to Tallahassee to hang hands in the Capitol and talk to legislators about our programs and services. Leading up to Children's Week in Tallahassee, Flagler and Volusia Counties hosted Children's Week activities in partnership with Healthy Start, Early Learning Coalition, Children's Advocacy, Volusia and Flagler Schools, Community Partnership for Children, the Department of Children and Families, Head Start and others. Peggy Cage and I had the pleasure of sponsoring the "Hop to It!" station at the Family Fun Fest, where we were charged with keeping kids moving for 4 hours on Saturday March 26th at The Early Learning Coalition. It was a wonderful event and I was sore for three days! Thousands of hands of Volusia and Flagler County children were displayed at the Flagler and Volusia County buildings for all to see. They were just beautiful and extremely creative. We thank all those who worked with children at their centers to make the hands. I look forward to hanging them at the Capitol Building so our legislators can see them.

Cody Lasenby, son of Tracy Lasenby, Healthy Start Board member

Sincerely,
Dixie Morgese

Healthy Start Funders

Volusia County,
Children & Families
Advisory Board

Healthy Start Providers FY 2010-2011

Flagler County
Health Department

Volusia County
Health Department

Stewart-Marchman-ACT

Healthy Communities

Mental Health America of East Central FL, inc. (formerly known as Mental Health Association of East Central Florida, Inc.)

Agape Midwifery Services

The Children's Advocacy Center of Volusia and Flagler (7/1/10-12/31/10)

Outreach Community Care Network

Debra Suto-Henry, Ph.D
FIMR Maternal Interviewer

Halifax Urban Ministries

Sandra Lennon, RN
FIMR Abstractor

Joan Hulett, RN
FIMR Abstractor

Commonsense Childbirth School of Midwifery

Volusia Flagler Fetal Infant Mortality Review (FIMR)

by Leslie Pearce

During November Leslie Pearce, Healthy Start Contract Manager and FIMR Coordinator attended The International Conference on Perinatal and Infant Death in Washington DC. At the conference she participated at the National FIMR (NFIMR) training related to Cultural and Linguistic Competence Organizational Self-Assessment for FIMR Case Review Teams, Hot Topics in Infant Safe Sleep, Bereavement Care After Pregnancy and Infant Loss, Safe Sleep in the Hospital Setting and Evaluating Crib Distribution and Safe Sleep Prevention. Ms. Pearce attend the conference with Board Members from the Florida SIDS Alliance, where she serves as a Board Member and was re-elected to serve for 2010-2013.

Ms. Pearce participated with the Florida SIDS Alliance in Train the Trainer held October 15-16, 2010. This training took place in Lake Mary with twelve (12) participants with varied backgrounds: Healthy Start personnel, Laction and Exit Counselors at Hospitals, Early Learning Coalition Supervisors and four (4) parents. Upcoming training is planned for the spring 2011.

During the first half of the 2010/2011 contract year the FIMR CRT reviewed 13 cases: five (5) Infant and eight (8) Fetal deaths. Two Infants deaths were sleep related. The Coalition continues to provide Safe Sleep Education throughout the community.

Healthy Families Volusia ~ Flagler Graduation Ceremony

Healthy Families Volusia ~ Flagler held its annual graduation ceremony on October 22nd 2010 to recognize the achievements of those program participants who successfully completed the program. Twenty-seven program participants graduated and received certificates of program completion as well as children's T-shirts printed with "The Graduating Class of 2010."

Those who attended the ceremony received raffle prizes and enjoyed a buffet donated by Olive Garden and a beautiful graduation cake from Publix.

The children enjoyed singing songs while proudly wearing their graduation caps and t-shirts. Program participants and their family members shared moving testimony about how the program positively impacted their families' lives.

"The Graduating Class of 2010."

Partnership with The Junior League of Daytona Beach

by Susan LeBlanc

The Healthy Start Coalition of Flagler & Volusia Counties has enjoyed a strong partnership with The Junior League of Daytona Beach over the past six years.

The Junior League accepts referrals so that program participants and their families can obtain items they may need from the Junior League's Thrift Shop at no charge. The Junior League also has an annual community grant application process and over the years, The Healthy Start Coalition has been awarded over $5,000 to purchase pack-n-plays for the Coalition's safe sleep campaign, Beds for Babies.

Most recently, The Junior League of Daytona Beach hosted their 5th semi-annual baby shower to benefit program participants on October 23rd 2010. More than 50 new or expectant families were showered with baby gifts to help them prepare for their new bundle of joy. While parents enjoyed the shower activities, Junior League volunteers provided child-care and activities for the families' other children.

Raffle items and giveaways

Larger raffle items included strollers, infant car seat carriers, activity gyms, bath tubs, baby monitors, pack-n-plays and breast pumps. Each family won at least one raffle item and received a gift basket filled with diapers, wipes, baby clothes and other baby necessities.

Continental breakfast was served!

In additional to continental breakfast and raffle prizes, a representative from the Birth Care Center at Florida Hospital Memorial Medical Center provided a Safe Sleep presentation followed by a question and answer session.

Program participants have benefitted greatly from this ongoing partnership with The Junior League of Daytona Beach. The Healthy Start Coalition commends The Junior League and its members for their dedication to supporting the needs of children and families within our community!

CONGRATULATIONS ~ Clarissa Tate and Peggy Cage!

Clarissa and Peggy were both nominated for the One Voice for Volusia's second annual "Efficiency in the Workplace" contest. They were described as "Quick as a Cat! Done with a Smile! Clean as a Whistle!" Clarissa is noted for her organization and professionalism. She always has a "smile on her face, a cheerful voice and a skip in her step". Staff look forward to coming to work each day knowing that they will be blessed with her wonderful, cheery self!

Peggy Cage

Peggy was the winner in the administrative category! Peggy's co-workers are amazed at how quietly and efficiently she works to support each and every need…Cage is best described as the flawless juggler maintaining a perfect balance among all tasks without "dropping the ball". She maintains top efficiency… Peggy is the "Gold Symbol of Excellence" and is the anchor of their office.

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The Lifesong Project

by Dixie Morgese

What is Lifesong?

Lifesong is a community project designed to be a template for positive change toward reducing health disparities. It is a way to sing the children's song! Because art, music, story-telling and dance can transcend written words and messages, it calls for an emotional, artistic and spiritual response that MOVES people into action. Lifesong presents a positive "canvas" from which to build community solutions with positive messages.

Why was Lifesong developed?

Because most people don't know that:

Two to three times as many African American babies are being born too soon, too small or too sick to survive, compared to white babies

African American babies are two to three times more likely to die before reaching their first birthday than white babies

Women of Color are less likely to be healthy before and between their pregnancies as white women

Women of Color are less likely to receive the prenatal care, postpartum care and interim health care, support and education that is integral to healthier birth outcome

Rev. John Long with wife, Maria

Can I Support Lifesong? Yes!!

Because YOU know that:

Telling the stories of **families** - Creating a "Circle of Women" and a "Circle of Men" to bring generations together to share stories of birth, life, and death, makes a difference.

Libby Charles

Telling the stories of **hope** – of programs that work, that 'close the gap', that create practical solutions to the impossible problems, encourage us all.

Telling the stories of **triumph** – of healthy, thriving mothers and babies, breastfeeding successes, and intact families despite the overwhelming odds, MOVE us all to say "I am willing to be part of the solution."

We all have our own rhythm and culture and we inherently know what works for us.

With Lifesong as a foundation, and with YOUR help, we can create a MOVEMENT!