Thank you to all of our partners, Board members and staff for joining us at our annual Fall Meeting and for your dedication to families throughout the year.
Safe Baby Team Wins 2nd Place in Children’s Board 10th Annual Business Competition

The award enables HSC to expand Safe Baby curriculum sales to communities beyond Hillsborough County and to create a Train the Trainer program to place educators throughout the country to reduce preventable infant deaths and create revenue to expand local efforts.

Healthy Start Celebrates Decrease in Infant Mortality

The three-year rolling rate for infant mortality in Hillsborough County has decreased by 14%. This reflects a drop in infant mortality in our community for three consecutive years. The disparity between Black and White infant mortality has decreased by 35% during the same time period. Since the inception of Healthy Start in 1992, infant mortality in Hillsborough County has decreased by 36%. The Coalition would like to thank our community partners for continuing to work to improve the lives and health of families in our community.

New Projects for Hillsborough County

This fall Healthy Start of Hillsborough County has successfully applied and received funding for two projects in our community. The Coalition received funding from the Children’s Board of Hillsborough County for a Women’s Resource Specialist to work in local WIC offices. The Women’s Resource Specialist will educate moms about Safe Baby practices and facilitate the family’s entry into the Healthy Start System of Care or other needed services. This new project will offer an opportunity for Healthy Start and WIC to collaborate on ways to improve the health in the community.

The Coalition also received funding from the March of Dimes to implement SCRIPTS smoking cessation services for pregnant clients. All 60 care coordinators are being trained to provide cessation services to improve maternal and infant health.

For more information on Healthy Start, visit http://healthystartcoalition.org/
Healthy Families Hillsborough celebrated their annual Healthy Families Graduation on August 14, 2015. The event was held at MOSI and was attended by 17 graduating families. There were 33 adults, including fathers and grandparents, and 38 children.

Graduating families accomplished many goals during their service including improving self-sufficiency, delaying subsequent pregnancies, finding and using a medical home by keeping their children up to date on well-baby visits and immunizations. Healthy Families is a long-term family support program funded by an investment grant through the Children’s Board of Hillsborough County, the Ounce of Prevention Fund of Florida and the Department of Children & Families.

What Healthy Families Has Meant to Me
by Shanique Phillips

“Healthy Families meant a lot to me and my family in so many ways. I love my worker. She has been like family and helped my son out in every way with his learning since he was an infant. She also taught me a lot to work on for my kids and myself to do better as a person and a mother. I’m just blessed and happy to have had the opportunity to join.”
Infant mortality is defined as the death of a baby before his or her first birthday. The infant mortality rate is an estimate of the number of infant deaths for every 1,000 live births and is often used as an indicator to measure the health and well-being of a community. Circumstances that affect the health of a population can also impact the mortality rate of infants.

Fetal and Infant Mortality Review (FIMR) is a community process that can address these circumstances that affect the health of a population. The overall goal of FIMR is to enhance the health and well-being of women, infants and families by improving the community resources and service delivery systems available to them. Evidence shows that FIMR is an effective perinatal systems intervention and, at the local level, can be used to assess, plan, improve and monitor services and community resources.

The FIMR process brings together key members of the community to review information from individual cases of fetal and infant death. The group can identify factors associated with those deaths, determine if they represent system problems that require change, develop recommendations for change, assist in the implementation of change and verify community effects.

Infant Mortality is often used as an indicator to measure the health and well-being of a community. Many factors can affect infant mortality including medical complications, environmental conditions and social barriers. Globally, the risk of an infant dying is much higher in developing nations; however, there is still risk in developing countries. The United States infant mortality rate has also been decreasing steadily, but a recent report from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention ranked the U.S. 26th among the 29 other Organization for Economic and Co-operation and Development Countries.

Because of international differences in the recording of live births, the study additionally compared rates excluding births at less than 24 weeks of gestation. This comparison put the U.S. infant mortality rate at 4.2 which is still higher than most European countries. In 2014, the infant mortality rate in Hillsborough County was 7.1 (per 1000 births) compared to the rate of 7.3 in the prior year. This is news to celebrate as it is always encouraging to see the rate decreasing. But there is still much work to accomplish.

Locally, the FIMR committee meets at the Healthy Start Coalition on a monthly basis. The process brings together two multi-disciplinary teams. The Case Review Team examines circumstances surrounding infant death to identify system gaps and make recommendations. The Community Action Team takes those recommendations to make the changes needed in the community’s delivery system.

Information on the National FIMR Program and Infant Mortality Data may be found at:

http://www.nfimr.org
http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/VitalStats.htm
Healthy Start Coalition Announces Training Calendar for 2016

Interconceptional Care Training: 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.
The comprehensive curriculum is based on the CDC’s recommendations to conduct community education around interconception health care (ICC). ICC offers women information on personal wellness and the importance of being healthy prior to pregnancy to prevent poor birth outcomes. ICC education topics include: Access to Care, Baby Spacing, Maternal Infections, Chronic Health Problems, Nutrition, Physical Activity, Environmental Risks, Mental Health, Smoking, and Substance Abuse.

Two 4-hour ICC trainings are available in 2016:
March 3 and September 14

Safe Baby Training: 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.
Safe Baby offers hospital and community-based education to teach parents about direct actions that they can take to protect their babies from the main causes of preventable infant deaths in Hillsborough County. Protective practices include how to choose a safe caregiver, prevent Shaken Baby Syndrome, and promote safe sleep practices. Participants receive curriculum and parent materials. Safe Baby is funded by the Children’s Board of Hillsborough County.

Three 2-hour Safe Baby trainings are available in 2016:
March 1, June 16 and October 18

To participate, please contact Nancy Hankin at 813-849-7994 or nhankin@hstart.org.

Top 10 OB Practices Offering the Healthy Start Screen
July 2014 – June 2015

1. Tampa OB/Exodus – 3,658
2. Tampa Family Health Centers – 2,002
3. Suncoast Community Health Centers – 1,277
4. OB/GYN Associates – 1,143
5. Premier OB/GYN – 931
6. Tampa General Hospital, Genesis – 670
7. Partners OB/GYN – 650
8. Women’s Care – 636
9. Women’s Health and Wellness – 458
10. Lifetime OB/GYN – 438

Thanks to the OB team of Suncoast Community Health Center in Ruskin for ensuring that their patients receive the Healthy Start screen.