



MULTNOMAH COUNTY AGENDA PLACEMENT REQUEST

(Revised: 8/18/11)

Board Clerk Use Only

Meeting Date:	<u>9-13-12</u>
Agenda Item #:	<u>R.12</u>
Est. Start Time:	<u>11:05 am</u>
Date Submitted:	<u>9-5-12</u>

Agenda Title:	<u>PROCLAIMING September 2012 as Infant Mortality Awareness Month in Multnomah County, Oregon</u>
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Note: If Ordinance, Resolution, Order or Proclamation, provide exact title. For all other submissions, provide a clearly written title sufficient to describe the action requested.

Requested Meeting Date:	<u>September 27, 2012</u>	Time Needed:	<u>30 minutes</u>
Department:	<u>Non-Departmental</u>	Division:	<u>District 2</u>
Contact(s):	<u>Paige Hendrix</u>		
Phone:	<u>503-988-6763</u>	Ext.:	<u>86763</u>
Presenter Name(s) & Title(s):	<u>Rachael Banks, Healthy Birth Initiative, and Invited Guests</u>		

General Information

1. What action are you requesting from the Board?

Adoption of the proclamation naming September as Infant Mortality Month in Multnomah County, Oregon.

2. Please provide sufficient background information for the Board and the public to understand this issue. Please note which Program Offer this action affects and how it impacts the results.

In Multnomah County, too many babies don't reach their first birthday. This tragic trend is measured by the infant mortality rate, the number of infant deaths per 1,000 live births in a given year. Infant mortality is an important indicator of the overall health of a community because it encompasses many other health factors such as maternal health, socioeconomic status, exposure to chronic stress, and access to health care.

The most common causes of infant death are prematurity, low birth weight, congenital anomalies, SIDS and maternal health. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) the smallest and most premature babies have an enormous impact on infant mortality. Less than 2% of births — those of babies born before 32 weeks of pregnancy — account for more than half of the deaths.

With 9.1 deaths per 1,000 live births, African Americans have the highest infant death rates among all ethnic and population groups in Multnomah County. African American infants are

nearly twice as likely to die as compared to non-Hispanic white infants. Not only are African Americans experiencing higher infant mortality rates, they are also experiencing a higher rate of discrimination, which is a documented source of harmful stress. One study found that women who gave birth to very low weight babies were more likely to have experienced racial discrimination than women who had normal weight babies. Health inequities are avoidable, unjust and costly.

Infant mortality and poor birth outcomes are expensive. Significant savings can accrue from enabling mothers to add a few ounces to a baby's weight before birth. An increase of 250 grams (about 1/2 lb) in birth weight saves an average of \$12,000 –\$16,000 in first year medical expenses. Prenatal interventions that result in a normal birth (over 2500 grams or 5.5 pounds) save \$59,700 in medical expenses in the infant's first year.

Healthy Birth Initiative (HBI), funded through Federal Healthy Start, improves birth outcomes for African American women and supports families in parenting to increase healthy attachment and decrease adverse childhood events. HBI engages with approximately 2,000 people each year by convening a community consortium, conducting outreach and providing health education. Furthermore, they serve 120 families with intensive case management and home visitation services. It is one of several efforts underway at the Multnomah County Health Department to address the needs of young families so that babies are born healthy and grow to become successful, kindergarten-ready children.

This proclamation will raise community awareness about the devastating impacts of infant mortality and be an inspiration for continued community collaboration that saves more babies and eliminates health disparities for African Americans and other communities of color.

Multnomah County: Maternal and Infant Health Assessment

<http://web.multco.us/sites/default/files/health/documents/maternalinfanthealth2009.pdf>

Fact Sheet: Preventing Infant Mortality. 13 January 2006. United States Department of Health & Human Services. 20 July 2011 <<http://www.hhs.gov/news/factsheet/infant.html>>.

CDC: U.S. infant mortality rate remains high. 29 July 2008. USA Today. 20 July 2011 <http://www.usatoday.com/news/health/2008-07-29-infant-mortality_N.htm>.

Persistent Peril: Why African American babies have the highest infant mortality rate in the developed world, Ziba Kashef, Feb.

2003, RaceWire, 1 July 2011 <http://www.arc.org/racewire/030210z_kashef.html>.

March of Dimes Perinatal Data Center. Rogowski, J. (1998) Cost-effectiveness of Care for Very Low Birthweight Infants. Pediatrics 012(1):35-43.

National Healthy Start Association http://www.nationalhealthystart.org/what_we_do/infant_mortality_awareness_campaign

3. Explain the fiscal impact (current year and ongoing).

Program Offer 40013B outlines that the County provides \$453,129 of General Fund money for the Healthy Birth Initiative. Additionally, HBI receives \$850,000 from a federal HRSA grant, \$73,579 from Medicaid Maternity Case Management and \$56,358 from Medicaid Targeted Case Management.

4. Explain any legal and/or policy issues involved.

n/a

5. Explain any citizen and/or other government participation that has or will take place.

Healthy Birth Initiative regularly convenes a community consortium with consumers, local and state government, community-based organizations and health providers to identify and implement solutions to combat infant mortality in the African American Community. HBI

has partnered with a myriad of agencies such as the March of Dimes, Urban League of Portland, Kaiser Permanente, and International Center for Traditional Childbearing to improve the health and well-being of mothers, fathers, babies and their families. HBI utilizes the consortium as a network rooted in the local community that provides a unique delivery system where program participants are engaged with local partners in the quest to eliminate health disparities in their own lives and in their community.

Required Signature

**Elected
Official or
Department
Director:**

Commissioner Smith /s/

Date:

9-5-12