Infant Mortality Task Force
Meeting Minutes
June 12, 2009

Opening Remarks
On behalf of the Ohio Department of Health and the governor's office, ODH Director Alvin D. Jackson, M.D, expressed gratitude to the task force members for their contribution and commitment. The Infant Mortality Task Force is charged with developing strategies to lower infant mortality and improve birth outcomes for Ohioans. The task force members are charged with developing recommendations that are bold, courageous and represent primary prevention efforts.

Infant Mortality Research Activities
ODH has sought input from stakeholders through Survey Monkey to identify current infant mortality-related research. Because most responses to date are from OSU Medical Center, attendees were asked to distribute the survey link along with a personal message to other known research entities in hopes of getting a broader range of respondents.

Infant Mortality Inventory of Programs
An additional survey is distributed through Survey Monkey to stakeholders to identify additional programs and efforts that are occurring throughout Ohio to reduce infant mortality.

Draft Preliminary Recommendation Report Out
Recommendation 1: Promote learning and understanding through supportive activities and services that address the effects and stress of racism on infant mortality.

Recommendation 2: Recognize infant mortality reduction requires a broad-based approach with an emphasis on eliminating disparities and promoting health equities through individual and systemic strategies.

Recommendation 3: Support research and implementation of secondary prevention measures including health promotion, education and evidence-based intervention that identify women at increased risk of preterm birth.

Recommendation 4: Provide equal access to primary prevention and reproductive services for all women and children especially those who are uninsured/underinsured, including care coordination before, during and after pregnancy.

Recommendation 5: Invest in culturally competent social marketing and education strategies to increase public awareness of the effect of preconception health choices and preconception care services on birth outcomes.

Recommendation 6: Develop data collection and analysis processes to identify and monitor progress in reducing infant mortality to inform program and policy decisions.

Recommendation 7: Implement new programs and expand effective existing programs that address infant mortality in Ohio.

Recommendation 8: Expand quality improvement initiatives to improve maternal and child health outcomes in Ohio.

Recommendation 9: Develop, recruit, train and support a diverse provider network across all health care provider types.

Recommendation 10: Align all primary prevention, health promotion and education interventions with research and evidence-based models that improve maternal care and infant health.

Recommendation 11: Implement and support continuous comprehensive care and service coordination to all women of childbearing age and their infants.

Recommendation 12: Establish the Ohio Healthy Women, Mothers and Infants Consortium (OHWMIC) as successor to the current Infant Mortality Task Force (IMTF) to implement and monitor recommendations of the task force.

Task Force Committee Involvement

Task force members will continue to be involved throughout the remaining parts of the process. Members will have an opportunity to review the preliminary recommendations and provide comment.

Next steps and timeline

- An action planning group will be convened from the current committee chairs and co-chairs to participate in the next steps for recommendations.
- Stakeholder input will continue to be collected through Survey Monkey for infant mortality research activities and inventory of programs.
- The deadline to submit preliminary recommendations to the governor's office is June 30, 2009.
- The final report with recommendations to address infant mortality and disparities will be presented to the governor's office by Sept. 30, 2009.