

Children's Services Council of Martin County February 2017 Newsletter

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Happy Retirement!



The Children's Services Council of Martin County would like to wish Ellen Pethic a happy retirement.

Ellen has served as the Manager of Finance for the Children's Services Council of Martin County since 2002. March 15th will be her last day.

Children's Services Council of Martin County Releases Invitation to Negotiate Black Infant Birth and Health Equity

In the summer of 2016, as part of the Florida Healthy Babies initiative, an Infant Mortality Analysis of Martin County was conducted. Key findings from the Martin County Healthy Babies Analysis include:

- The cause-specific Infant Mortality Rates (IMR) for Black infants were significantly higher than White infants and Hispanic infants.
- Black women had a higher rate of obesity at pregnancy than White or Hispanic women.
- Black women had a rate of 62.3% for breastfeeding initiation compared to that of White women at 82.3%.
- The Black infants had more than double the percentage of low birth weight than White and Hispanic infants.

Children's Services Council of Martin County (CSCMC) has issued an Invitation to Negotiate (ITN) to identify qualified community service providers for Martin County's children and families capable of implementing a community-based Black Infant Birth and Health Equity program.

Program services will reach Martin County neighborhoods with the greatest disparities in black infant birth and health outcomes.

The proposed program will respond to and support

Thank you Ellen for your dedication and service to the Children's Services Council of Martin County. We wish you the best!

Events:

Tykes & Teens to Host Positive Messaging Rap Battle

April 7th from
7:00 pm - 11:00 pm
East Stuart Youth Initiative
724 E. 10th Street, Stuart
Free and open to kids
ages 12-18

For more information
please contact Tykes and
Teens at 772-288-5340

The Early Learning Coalition's Storybook Forest

March 25th at Flagler Park
in Stuart from
10:00 am- 1:00 pm

Free parking and admission
for everyone.
Kids can enjoy free crafts,
activities, story time and
meet Pete the Cat!

[Please click here for more information!](#)



the 3 goals and the 12-point plan to reduce Black-White disparities in birth and health outcomes using a life-course approach as described by Michael C. Lu, MD, MPH and colleagues in [Closing the Black-White Gap in Birth Outcomes: A Life-course Approach.](#)

[FOR 2017-18 INVITATION TO NEGOTIATE \(ITN\) INFORMATION, click here](#)

To learn more about the programs and services supported by the Children's Services Council of Martin County, please visit our website at cscmc.org.

Legislative Update



Executives from the Children's Services Councils met with Representative Gayle Harrell in Tallahassee to discuss her recommendation to increase the number of Children's Services Councils in the state. Representative Harrell is the legislative representative on the Children's Cabinet. The Executive Directors updated her on what we are doing to accomplish that as a number of counties are planning to put it on the ballot in 2018.

Representative Harrell also voiced her support for the 1st 1000 Days efforts across the state. Other topics that were discussed were the emerging issues having to do with disparities in birth outcomes for black infants across the state/nation.

Another hot issue being discussed was the need to provide better access re: oral health care needs for young children. The Surgeon General, Celeste Philips spoke in support of future funding for the Dental Sealant Program statewide and Director of AHCA talked about more pediatric dentists and increased access to care.