Kansas ranks higher than the national average for poor birth outcomes, but organizations like Every Baby to 1 and Cradle KC are hoping to change that. Shalese Clay, Program Manager for Every Baby to 1 and Cradle KC, hopes Kansas birth outcomes will be improved, "...it isn't going to change overnight, but there is a possibility to make headway."

Diving into Maternal and Infant Health data and lived experiences of Black pregnant people indicate a sharp racial disparity. In Kansas, the **average infant mortality rate** is 6.1 but the White infant mortality rate is 4.9 while the Black infant mortality rate is 11.5. Clay expanded, "Mortality rates are worse than fifteen years before slavery ended. We need change and change now." Clay noted several challenges to improving birth outcomes: systemic racism, access to data, and inadequate health professional training on social determinants of health.

However, Clay points out CHWs play a vital role in supporting Maternal and Infant Health. "Community health workers can see and identify needs of a patient and know what to do to help the patient succeed." Accessing early care in pregnancy and after giving birth is critical for healthy outcomes. However, social determinants of health, such as transportation and discrimination, can make it challenging for pregnant Black people to get the health care they need. Community health workers can advocate for their patients and connect them to the resources they need.
NEWS & EVENTS

RESOURCE
COVID-19 INFORMATION IN 32 LANGUAGES

Herperian Health Guides has compiled COVID-19 related information here in 32 different languages!

CONFERENCE
RESILIENCE: LOOKING TOWARDS THE FUTURE OF INDIGENOUS PUBLIC HEALTH

Save the date for the Tribal Public Health Conference from April 20-22, 2021! This conference will bring together data, solutions, and cultural knowledge systems to improve the health and well being of Native people.

REQUEST!
CHW OF THE YEAR NOMINATION

We know 2020 was a challenging year, but that did not stop all the great work of community health workers. We are excited to announce the nomination application for Community Health Worker of the Year is now open! Please take time between now and May 17 to make your nomination here.
COMMITTEE UPDATES

The Executive Committee met and reviewed bylaws. They plan to revisit and make changes as needed. Resources were shared regarding COVID Vaccine Messaging and can be found on the committee notes. The Committee discussed continuing the Digital Literacy Training sessions and possibilities for other topics. Francheon Frances will provide Trauma-Informed Care education sessions beginning in April. Committees and Regional Representatives gave their updates. Advocacy/Sustainability: a Social Determinants of Health bill will be introduced to Congress; Education: met with K-State Research and Extension to get their feedback and plan for Cohort #2 that begins in May. This Cohort is funded by UMHMF and five funded communities will be joining; Symposium: the event will be held virtually on 6/8/21 and the team has requested Lieutenant David Toland to be the keynote speaker; Northeast Kansas & Southern Plains Tribal Health Board: vaccination schedules can be found at Indian Health Service or Tribal Health Center; Southwest Kansas: working on community-related vaccine efforts, and handing out care packages with school-age children. Beth Koksal and Callie Dyer are available to train CHWs in Mental Health First Aid training. The Executive Committee will meet again Wednesday, March 3, 2021.

The Joint Advocacy and Sustainability Committee met and discussed upcoming legislation pertaining to CHWs, the integration of CHWs into pediatrics, and the Sustainability Work Plan. KDHE updates: mark your calendar for the Virtual Kansas Governor’s Public Health Conference March 30-April 1. The Joint Advocacy & Sustainability Committee will meet again on Tuesday, March 16 at 1:30 PM.

The Symposium Committee met and discussed the 2021 topics and speakers for the upcoming Symposium. The three topics are Lesson Learning from COVID-19, Resiliency & Self-Care, and Social Justice and Vulnerable Populations. The committee agreed to open up CHW of the Year nominations. Nominees for Co-Chairs will be collected during the Symposium event and the vote will be sent afterward. The Symposium Committee will meet again on Monday, March 15, 2021.

The Education Committee was canceled due to inclement weather and will meet again on Tuesday, March 16 at 3:00 PM.

For more information about KS CHW Coalition meeting dates, please contact alissa.rankin@wichita.edu.

OTHER IMPORTANT DATES

KC Regional CHW Collaborative Capacity Building Subcommittee
Monday, March 22, 2021, at 9:00am - 10am

KC Regional CHW Collaborative Advocacy Subcommittee
March 25, 2021 at 8:00am - 9:00am

KC Regional CHW Forum
Thursday, March 25, 2021, at 9:00am - 10:15am

KC Regional CHW Collaborative
Thursday, March 25, 2021, at 10:30 am - 11:30 pm

For more information about the KC Regional CHW Collaborative, contact Hannayd Ruiz at hruiz@marc.org

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You are receiving this email because you expressed interest in the Kansas Community Health Worker Coalition or Symposium.

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