

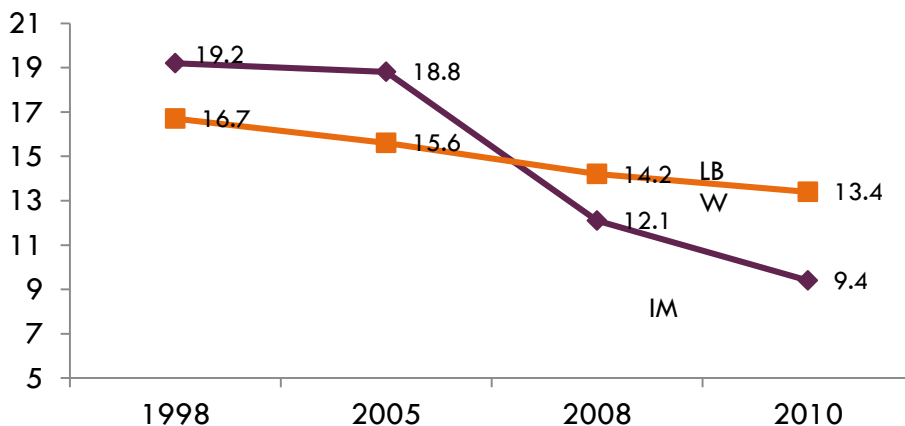
# REACHUP, Inc. HIGHLIGHTS

## I. History

- a. The University of South Florida (USF), Lawton and Rhea Chiles Center for Healthy Mothers and Babies received a federal Healthy Start grant in 1997. The Project was named Central Hillsborough Healthy Start (CHHS).
- b. Based on the leadership of the CHHS Community Consortium, CHHS transitioned from USF in 2009. **REACHUP**, Inc. is the result of changing “the parent” of Central Hillsborough Healthy Start (CHHS) from the USF to a fully independent, 501(c)3, non-profit community-based organization.
  - i. We hire staff from within our community.
  - ii. We partner with community churches to provide many services within our community.
  - iii. We contract with community agencies that have a history of serving families in central Hillsborough County.
  - iv. We work together with community residents and organizations to attract additional funding to support our families.

## II. Research & Evaluation

- a. The research and evaluation arm of the organization remains at USF, College of Public Health.
- b. Dr. Hamisu Salihu serves as Lead Evaluator.
- c. Central Hillsborough Healthy Start Program did reduce the level of low birth weight and preterm delivery by about 30% among service recipients as compared to non-recipients (**Maternal and Child Health Journal, September 2008**).
- d. The 2011 CHHS report evaluating project data from 1998 – 2010 indicated that the Infant Mortality Rate (IM) in the CHHS catchment area declined from 19.2 in 1998 to 9.4 in 2010. The Low Birth Weight Rate (LBW) declined from 16.7 to 13.4.



e. Publications

- Jevitt, C., Zapata, L., Harrington, M. & Berry, E. (2006). Screening for perinatal depression with limited psychiatric resources can be effective. *Journal of American Psychiatric Nurses Association*, 11(6), 359-363. doi: 10.1177/1078390305284530
- Salihu, H. M., Mbah, A. K., Jeffers, D., Alio, A. P. & Berry, L. (2008). Healthy Start Program and fetoinfant morbidity outcomes: Evaluation of program effectiveness. *Maternal and Child Health Journal*, 13(1), 56-65. doi 10.1007/s10995-008-0400-y
- Luke, S., Salihu, H. M., Alio, A. P., Mbah, A. K., Jeffers, D., Berry, E. L. & Mishkit, V. R. (2009). Risk factors for major antenatal depression among low-income African American women. *Journal of Women's Health*, 18 (11), 1841-1846.
- Quinn, G. P., August, E. M., Austin, D., Keefe, C., Bernadotte, C., Scarborough, K., & Jeffers, D. (2009). High risk community—men's perceptions of black infant mortality: A qualitative inquiry. *American Journal of Men's Health*, 3, 224 - 237. doi:10.1177/1557988308319008
- Salihu, H., August, E. M., Jeffers, D., Mbah, A. K., Alio, A. P., & Berry, E. L. (2011). Effectiveness of a Federal Healthy Start program in reducing primary and repeat teen pregnancies: Our experience over the decade. *Journal of Pediatric and Adolescent Gynecology*, 24 (3), 153-160. doi:10.1016/j.jpog.2011.01.001
- Salihu, H.M., August, E.M., Alio, A.P., Jeffers, D., Austin, D., & Berry, E. (2011). Community-Academic partnerships to reduce black-white disparities in infant mortality in Florida. *Progress in Community Health Partnerships: Research, Education, And Action*, 5(1), 53-66. doi: 10.1353/cpr.2011.0009
- Salihu, H.M., August, E.M., Mbah, A.K., Alio, A.P., deCuba, R.,<sup>2nd</sup>, Jaward, F.M., & Berry, E.L. (2011). Effectiveness of a federal healthy start program in reducing the impact of particulate air pollutants on fetoinfant morbidity outcomes. *Maternal and Child Health Journal*. Advance online publication. doi 10.1007/s10995-011-0854-1
- Alio, A. P., Lewis, A. C., Scarborough, K., Harris, K., & Fiscella, K. (2013). A community perspective on the role of fathers during pregnancy: a qualitative study. *BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth*, 13(60). DOI: 10.1186/1471-2393-13-60. URL: <http://www.biomedcentral.com/1471-2393/13/60>

III. Community Capacity Building

a. Maternal and Child Health Workforce Development

i. Employees

1. Doulas
2. Case Managers
3. Community Health Nurses
4. Community Outreach Workers
5. Managers
6. Administrators

ii. Consultants

1. Mental Health
2. Advocacy and Education
3. Male Involvement
4. Pastoral and Faith Initiative Engagement

b. Community Based Grant Writing and Specialized Technical Assistance

- i. Universal Trade Network *Math and Science Possibilities Program*
- ii. For the Family Telephone Mentoring Program

- iii. True Vine Community Church Community Resource Center
- iv. St. John Progressive Church AMTAGS (Angels Ministering to a Grieving Spirit) Teen Baby Shower
- v. By the Grace of God Ministries Math and Science Entrepreneurship Initiative
- vi. Single Parent Family Foundation East Tampa Job Fair
- vii. Sunshine Baby SIDS Education program
- viii. Women of Zion International, Inc. Health Education and Mentoring Program
- ix. Open Arms Ministries B.E.A.R. Hugs Mentoring Program
- c. Building Organizational Capacity Project
  - i. 100 Black Men of Tampa Bay, Inc.
  - ii. By the Grace of God Ministries
  - iii. The Tampa Bay Family and Community Development Corporation
- d. University-Community Collaboration - Internship Site
  - i. College of Public Health – MPH Students
  - ii. College of Nursing – BSN Students
  - iii. College of Arts and Sciences –Anthropology Students
  - iv. College of Business– Business Students

#### IV. Community Engagement And Advocacy

##### a. Black Infant Health Practice Initiative (BIHPI)

Following Florida Department of Health reports indicating that Hillsborough County's Black Infant Mortality rate was 4.4 times higher than the White rate, Senator Arthenia Joyner and Representative Betty Reed sponsored House Bill 1269 in response to the disparity in Black infant deaths in Florida. As a result, section 383.2162, F.S., was passed at the beginning of the 2007-2008 Fiscal Year, with a nonrecurring allocation of \$1 million for research and development of to study the problem and generate findings and recommendations to the legislature. Each of eight Florida counties meeting the designated criteria were to conduct research, develop interventions and strategies and develop and sustain a Community Action Team (CAT) designed to reduce and ultimately eliminate these disparities.

##### b. Florida Team, Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities Action Institute (REHDAI)

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) established the Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities Action Institute (REHDAI). The Community Health and Program Services Branch (CHAPS) within the Division of Adult and Community Health (DACH) developed and implemented the Institute designed to increase the capacity of local communities to impact health disparities, helping to create health equity through social justice.

##### c. Florida Health Equity Commission (FHEC), Founding Member

As a way to sustain and expand the BIHPI, FHEC's mission is to eliminate social and economic barriers to good health in the state of Florida by supporting and promoting community engagement, capacity building, health-related policy, government involvement, evidence-based practice, and research that highlight and change, when necessary, the connection between health and wellness and socioeconomic status.

##### d. National Healthy Start Association (NHSA)

The NHSA, representing the 105 federal Healthy Start projects around the nation, aims to be an effective advocate in policies and programs that improve the health status of women, infants and families and strengthen the capacity of Healthy Start programs and community-based MCH organizations nationwide.