

# Kalamazoo County Fetal Infant Mortality Review (FIMR)

FIMR is a community-level, interdisciplinary continuous quality improvement (CQI) process for identifying root causes and preventing future deaths.

## Infant Mortality is the tip of the iceberg ...

Across the globe and the nation, Infant Mortality (the death of a baby before its first birthday, is a "white glove" test of a community's health. High infant mortality rates and reasons babies are dying is considered the tip of the iceberg for two main reasons:

- Problems that are harming babies are problems that are affecting the entire community in less visible ways;
- For every infant that dies, there are many times more infants who survive but at disadvantages that affect them throughout their lives, keeping them behind every step of the way.

### The Team

#### CASE REVIEW TEAM

- **Goals:** (1) Review Individual Cases  
(2) Identify System Gaps  
(3) Draft Recommendations
- **Members:** Hospital & Primary Care, Behavioral Health, Public Health, Criminal Justice, Child Welfare, and Community Members

#### COMMUNITY ACTION TEAM

- **Goals:** (1) Synthesize Data  
(2) Prioritize Issues  
(3) Take Action
- **Members:** Institutional Administrators, Community Leaders, Government, and Funders

### The Process

#### SURVEILLANCE

- Death Notification & Monitoring

#### REVIEW

- Abstract Records
- Interview Family
- Case Summary

#### ROOT CAUSE

- Multi-Discipline Review
- Identify System Gap(s)
- Generate Recommendations

#### PREVENTIVE ACTION

- Develop policy
- Present to: Cradle Kalamazoo, Michigan FIMR Network, & National Center for Fatality Review & Prevention

## Accomplishments from mid-2015 to mid-2019

- Hosted 50 monthly meetings with representatives from 15 community organizations from the medical, public health, social service, and education field
- Reviewed over 70 cases of infant and stillbirth deaths
- Conducted over 35 family interviews
- Identified multiple social and health system gaps that informed recommendations to the Community Action Team, Cradle Steering Committee
- Created process for submitting recommendations to the Michigan FIMR Network
- Facilitated training for the Michigan FIMR Network
- Member of the National Center for Child Fatality Review & Prevention Workgroup on Disparities