



**KENT COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT
ACADEMIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT
PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

PROJECT NAME: Infant Health Action Team

SEMESTER: Spring/Summer 2019

PRECEPTOR: Barbara Hawkins Palmer

DESCRIPTION: The Healthy Kent Infant Health Action Team (IHAT) has been active in the community since 2000 working in collaboration to eliminate the disparity in infant mortality rates. The IHAT is made up of over 40 organizations and individuals working on various aspects of infant mortality such as breastfeeding, drug-exposed infants, fatherhood, infant safe sleep, perinatal mood and anxiety disorders, health equity, and improved delivery of patient care and services through professional development. The student intern will be working with the Infant Health Action Team to plan a community baby shower which will be offered in both English and Spanish, to plan a Breakfast Break for Breastfeeding in-service, to update a "toolkit" for the Moms Helping Moms Breastfeed Peer Mentor program, provide infant safe sleep presentations in the community, attend health fairs and other community events for the IHAT, attend coalition meetings and take on tasks / responsibilities as they are identified.

IMPORTANCE TO PUBLIC HEALTH: Infant mortality is an indicator of the health and wellbeing of the community and includes the number of infant deaths per 1,000 live births during the first year of a child. In Kent County and the City of Grand Rapids, the infant mortality rate for African-American babies is almost 3 times the rate of Caucasian babies. To determine what is contributing to the disparity, the Kent County Perinatal Periods of Risk (PPOR) data analysis indicates that infant deaths in the African-American population are related to the health of the mother prior to and during pregnancy and premature babies born too soon and/or too small to survive.

APPLICABLE ESSENTIAL PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES:

- Monitor health status
- Inform, educate, and empower
- Mobilize community partnerships
- Develop policies and plans
- Link people to health services
- Assure a competent workforce
- Evaluate effectiveness

PROJECT DELIVERABLES:

- Complete the Moms Helping Moms Breastfeed Toolkit
- Complete Infant Safe Sleep presentations
- Attendance at health fairs and community events.
- Planning and Implementation of a Community Baby Shower
- Present a 15 minute presentation on the Intern Project during Student Research Day at KCHD.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS: Students applying for this internship must have a high school diploma or be enrolled in a bachelor's or master's degree program. Computer proficiency, Spanish language experience, data analysis, evaluation, public speaking, and group facilitation experienced preferred.

SKILLS: The student selected for this internship opportunity should expect to develop public health skills and competencies in the following categories:

- Public speaking
- Plan development
- Data analysis
- Coalition building and collaboration