

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MEDIA ADVISORY

Kent County Health Department receives \$50,000 grant to enhance perinatal opioid treatment and resources offered to pregnant women and their infants

What: On behalf of the Region 4 Perinatal Quality Collaborative, the [Kent County Health Department](#) will receive a \$50,000 grant on Monday, Mar. 9 to enhance access to local treatment, support and recovery resources and provide education through MIRecovery.info for expecting women struggling with substance use disorder in West Michigan. The funding is provided through the “Addressing Perinatal Opioid Use Disorder” initiative, a new public-private collaboration between the [Michigan Department of Health and Human Services](#), [Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan](#) and the [Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan Foundation](#).

The Kent County Health Department is one of five health organizations across the state receiving a combined total of \$300,000 in grant funding to begin new projects, enhance or expand existing projects to prevent and treat opioid use disorder among women, their children and infants during prenatal, pregnancy and postpartum periods.

When: Monday, March 9 at 10:00 a.m.
Please arrive by 9:55 a.m.

Where: Kent County Health Department
700 Fuller Ave., NE
Grand Rapids, Mich. 49503

Who: **The following attendee will be available for media interviews and photos at the event:**

- State Senator Winnie Brinks, D-Grand Rapids
- Audrey Harvey, executive director and CEO of the Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan Foundation
- Joann Hoganson, RN, MSN Director of Community Wellness, Kent County Health Department
- Adam London, RS, MPA, Administrative Health Officer, Kent County Health Department
- Dawn Shanafelt, MPA, BSN, RN, Director, Division of Maternal & Infant Health, MDHHS

Why: Women with opioid use disorder, who are pregnant or likely to become pregnant, face potentially adverse outcomes for themselves and their infants, including preterm labor, stillbirth, neonatal abstinence syndrome (NAS) and maternal mortality. According to MDHHS’ Division for Vital Records, between 2010 to 2017, the rate of infants discharged from hospitals for drug withdrawals has increased by more than 50 percent. The grants were targeted toward non-profit organizations participating in one of the 10 Regional Perinatal Quality Collaboratives in Michigan to establish effective and evidence-based projects that will be sustained beyond the grant period.

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