SEPTEMBER IS NATIONAL INFANT MORTALITY AWARENESS MONTH
MCHD’s Healthy Birth Initiatives: Providing 14 years of service

September is National Infant Mortality Awareness Month, a campaign sponsored by National Healthy Start Association (NHSA).

The Healthy Birth Initiatives (HBI) program is recognizing Infant Mortality Awareness Month during their Community Consortium meeting on Wednesday, September 21, 2011 from 11:30am – 1:30pm at the North Precinct (449 NE Emerson Street, Portland, OR 97211). In this meeting you will hear from HBI about the history of the program, existing efforts and ways others can get involved to decrease infant mortality. You will also hear from three of HBI’s community partners that work to reduce infant mortality in our community: International Center for Traditional Childbearing (ICTC), Urban League and the March of Dimes. Personal testimonies will be given by families that the HBI program has worked with.

Many babies in our communities never get a chance to celebrate their first birthday. The majority of those babies are African American, Hispanic and American Indian.

HBI has received funding from the NHSA to reduce the infant mortality rate in Multnomah County since 1997 and is currently in its fourth funding cycle. Because of the disparities in infant mortality and low birth weight rates, the last two funding cycles have served African American families exclusively. The NHSA promotes community-based maternal and child health programs that focus on the reduction of infant mortality, racial disparities and low birth weight.

HBI specializes in outreach and home visiting – an effective way to reach the most at-risk women and families. HBI uses the Consortium as a network rooted in the local community providing a unique delivery system where program participants (along with community agency representatives and other community members) are engaged and actively involved in the quest to eliminate health disparities in their own lives and in their community!

Every baby deserves a chance..... To say their first word. To take their first step. To have their first birthday. To start their first day of school. To graduate from college. To have a baby. To get married. To be President. Call 503.988.3387 x22242 for questions or more information.