

Report on the Fatherhood Summit held October 19th & 20th, see page 7.



Check out the Healthy Start Projects' Hill Visit photos and more starting on p. 8.

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2019 – NHSA Holds 20th Annual Conference with a Focus on Inequity and Racism

Following a two-day pre-conference workshop on “Strategies for Success,” led by two former NHSA board members, Belinda Pettiford and Yvonne Beasley, the conference unofficially began with an orientation session for first-time attendees and consumers on Sunday evening, October 20th. The 20th Annual Conference officially kicked into high gear on Monday the 21st at the Hyatt Regency Washington on Capitol Hill. This year’s theme was *Standing in the Gap: Addressing Equity & the Impact of Racism on Health Outcomes for Women, Children, Fathers & Communities*. After welcoming the 350 attendees from Healthy Start projects across the country, NHSA Board President Timika Anderson Reeves and Conference Chairwoman Angela Ellison turned the podium over to representatives from the federal Maternal and Child Health Bureau (MCHB) and the Division of Healthy Start and Perinatal Services (DHSPS).



MCHB Assistant Administrator Michael Warren, MD, MPH (pictured with NHSA CEO Deborah Frazier), and DHSPS Director Tiffany McNair Wiggins, MD, MPH, both offered a warm welcome to participants. They were followed by Scott Berns, MD, MPH, President and CEO of the National Institute

Continued on page 2

2000 – Authorization was a Focus at the Conference; in 2019, it’s RE-authorization

When NHSA held its first conference in 2000, one of the main reasons was to educate the Healthy Start project directors and other staff about appropriations and authorization and the difference between the two. Securing federal funding from Congress requires a two-step process. The program can be “authorized,” and the funds must be “appropriated.” Programs need not be re-authorized in order to be funded through appropriations, but there is a very real vulnerability to not being authorized. Through the efforts of NHSA and the Healthy Start projects, the Healthy Start initiative was authorized in 2000 and reauthorized in 2008.

Enter this year and *The Healthy Start Reauthorization Act of 2019*. Both houses of Congress are working to reauthorize the program. Senator Sherrod Brown (D-OH) is the lead sponsor of a bipartisan effort in the Senate, along with co-sponsors Richard Burr (R-NC), Debbie Stabinow (D-MI) and Joni Ernst (R-IA). S.2619 is now on the Senate Legislative Calendar.

In the House, Representative Tim Ryan (D-OH) has taken the lead on H.R.4801, along with bipartisan co-sponsors: Representatives Lauren Underwood (D-IL), Anthony Gonzalez (R-OH), Steve Stivers (R-OH), Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA), Sanford Bishop, Jr. (D-GA), Henry Cuellar (D-TX) and Guy Reschenthaler (R-PA).

See page 5 for more information.



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The National Healthy Start Association is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. The mission of the NHSA is to be our nation's voice in providing leadership and advocacy for health equity services and interventions that improve birth outcomes and family well-being.

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Photo Credits: Thank you to the Healthy Start projects that sent in photos used in this issue! Special thanks to Mary Schultheis and Sheree Keitt for their photos.

Getting off to a Healthy Start

Highlights of NHSA's 20th Annual Conference, continued from page 1

for Children's Health Quality (NICHQ) and Kenn Harris, Project Director of NICHQ's Supporting Healthy Start Performance Project (SHSPP). Dr. Berns is the Co-Principal Investigator on the SPSPP grant with NHSA's CEO, Deborah Frazier.

Vijaya Hogan, PhD, whose topic was "Past, Present, Future: Recalibrating to Achieve Equity in Maternal, Child and Family Health" followed. Hogan, formerly Clinical Associate Professor at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, is equity implementation strategist for NHSA's AIM Community Care Initiative, NHSA's recently funded cooperative agreement that began in September. Hogan stressed the need to change how we approach the achievement of health equity, to be more systematic and scientific in the approach and to develop new capacities so that equity is ingrained in every action.

Following Dr. Hogan was another plenary session with Deborah Prothrow-Stith, MD, Dean and Professor of Medicine at the Charles R. Drew University. Her topic was "40 Years of Viewing Violence as a Public Health Problem: Lessons Learned." Monday afternoon consisted of concurrent breakout sessions featuring diverse topics such as Best Practices in Healthy Start Programs and Partnerships, Implicit Bias, Male Involvement and Evaluation of Healthy Start Programs. The day concluded with NHSA's annual membership meeting.

Tuesday's opening plenary was offered by Arthur James, MD, who is the Co-Principal Investigator on NHSA's AIM Community Care Initiative Project. Dr. James' title was "2019," and focused on 400 years of inequity and injustice endured by African Americans since the first slave ships came to America and the impact on disparities in health and birth outcomes. Julie Zaharatos, MPH, of the National Center for Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, followed with a talk on "Strengthening Maternal Mortality Review Committees to Inform Community Prevention Activities." This was followed by a presentation by Michael Currie, MPH, MBA, and David Williams, MD, both affiliated with UnitedHealthcare. They spoke on the "National Partnership to Address Disparities in Infant and Maternal Health." The last plenary speaker was Tuesday's luncheon presenter, Molly Rose Kaufman, Director of the University of Orange, who spoke on "We Fight for All Children: 400 Years of Inequality and Our Family Stories."

Tuesday afternoon again provided concurrent breakout sessions in the afternoon, with topics that included Mental and Behavioral Health, Family Engagement and The Making of the Film, "Toxic: A Black Woman's Story." Healthy Start project directors then held their annual Heart to Heart session.

For a complete conference program, click [here](#). See page 5 for a report on the October 23rd Congressional Breakfast.



Dr. Hogan (L) with Deborah Frazier.

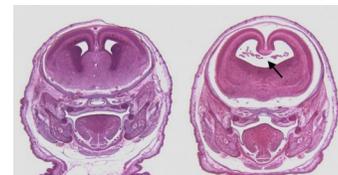


400 Years of Inequality logo, similar to one of Ms. Kaufman's slides.

Research News: *Hot* Stats and *Fast* Facts

Using Both Marijuana and Alcohol During Early Pregnancy May Increase Likelihood of Disrupting Fetal Development

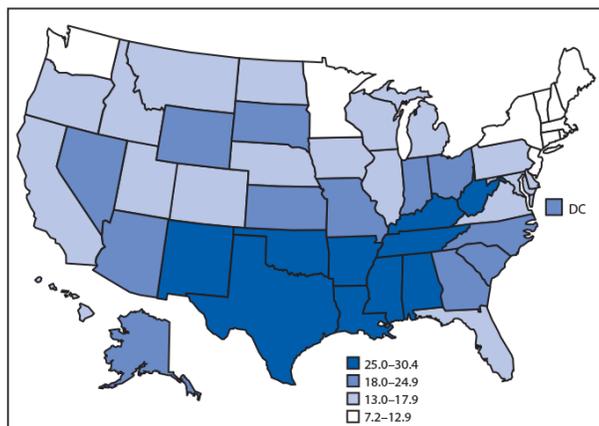
Research funded by the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA) and conducted at the Bowles Center for Alcohol Studies at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill demonstrated that co-exposure to a compound found in marijuana called cannabinoids (CBs) and alcohol increased the likelihood of birth defects involving the face and brain. “Prenatal alcohol exposure is a leading preventable cause of birth defects and neurodevelopmental abnormalities in the United States,” said NIAAA Director, George F. Koob, Ph.D. “Since marijuana and alcohol are frequently used simultaneously, the combined effects of cannabinoids and alcohol are worrisome as well as the dangers of either substance alone.” The study administered a variety of CBs alone and in combination with mice that were eight days pregnant, similar to the third and fourth weeks of a human pregnancy. “The researchers found that one-time exposure to CBD and THC caused eye, brain, and facial malformations similar to those caused by prenatal alcohol exposure alone. The researchers also found that when mice were given both CBs and alcohol, the likelihood of these birth defects more than doubled.”



Stained sections of fetal mouse brains. (Left) Control. (Right) Mouse exposed to alcohol and a cannabinoid on the 8th day of pregnancy. Black arrow highlights enlarged cerebral ventricle caused by the loss of the midline septal region. Dr. Scott Parnell, UNC Chapel Hill.

NIAAA is part of the National Institute of Health. Read the complete news release from 11/08/19 [here](#).

Birth Rates for Teens Aged 15–19 Years, By State



In 2018, the U.S. birth rate for teens aged 15–19 years was 17.4 births per 1,000 females, with rates generally lower in the Northeast and higher across the southern states. Teen birth rates ranged from 7.2 in Massachusetts, 8.0 in New Hampshire, 8.3 in Connecticut, and 8.8 in Vermont to rates of 30.4 in Arkansas, 27.8 in Mississippi, 27.5 in Louisiana, 27.3 in Kentucky and 27.2 in Oklahoma.

Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report, 11/08/19. Click [here](#) for more details.

Number of Uninsured Children is on the Rise

Key findings from a recent report:

- The number of uninsured children in the United States increased by more than 400,000 between 2016 and 2018 bringing the total to over 4 million uninsured children in the nation.
- These coverage losses are widespread with 15 states showing statistically significant increases in the number and/or rate of uninsured children (Alabama, Arizona, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Missouri, Montana, North Carolina, Ohio, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, West Virginia), and only one state (North Dakota) moving in the right direction.
- Loss of coverage is most pronounced for white children and Latino children (some of which may fall into both categories), young children under age 6 and children in low- and moderate- income families who earn between 138 percent and 250 percent of poverty.
- States that have not expanded Medicaid to parents and other adults under the Affordable Care Act have seen increases in their rate of uninsured children three times as large as states that have.

Georgetown University Health Policy Institute/Center for Children and Families, 11/07/19. Click [here](#) for the full report.

Message from Deborah Frazier, NHSA's CEO



November signals fall leaves, crisp change in weather and heralds the much-anticipated season of Thanksgiving. However, November doesn't necessarily have to mean the "turkey" Thanksgiving that so many look forward to. It can simply be a season of looking at life through the lens of a grateful heart.

Life is filled with so much that can create anxiety and stress on an international, national and local level. And there is so much demanding our attention - a work related report or survey due, a newsletter to write, a new rule / policy to implement, new funding to chase - or failed funding opportunity. Sometimes we can forget that life is still filled with people and events that bring us joy, warm our hearts, and help to make us and our communities better for the gift of their presence. This is a great time to pause and reflect on those people and things in our life that bring joy and create grateful hearts. And that brings me to the work to the Healthy Start program.

There is something magical and special about the reflective gaze of an infant or the smile and laughter of a child. The image alone can relieve stress, bring a smile to any unhappy face, bring joy to any family. Like so many of you, I know personally and professionally that perfect birth outcomes, even good outcomes are not to be taken for granted. A grateful heart knows that this is a special gift. A grateful heart never takes this infant's gaze, parents' joy or a child's laughter or smile for granted.

With a grateful heart, I want to thank all of the Healthy Start family for the tireless work that you do to ensure that thousands of families each year get the opportunity to gaze into the eyes of their newborns, to raise healthy children, see their smiles and hear their laughter.

And when results are not optimum, you work with families to heal hearts, find community solutions and replace disappointments with new opportunities for healthy communities and birth outcomes that exceed the US norms.

All too often we measure our success by the data that reflects the presence or absence of maternal or infant deaths. Let's take time to celebrate Healthy Start lives and be thankful for the bright eyes, beautiful smiles and lifetimes of laughter that are the result of your phenomenal Healthy Start work.



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Attention Healthy Start Project Directors!

- Do you have a project newsletter? Be sure to include NHSA in your distribution list so we can include your news in *Getting off to a Healthy Start!* Please add Bea Haskins, our newsletter editor, bhaskins@nationalhealthystart.org.
- Do you have project staff you'd like to be on *our* distribution list? Send their name, title and email address to Bea so she can add them!
- Make sure we have your Fatherhood Coordinator's name and email address, too!
- Not a Healthy Start Project? That's OK! Let us know if you want to add someone to our distribution list.

Congressional Breakfast & Healthy Start in the News

Representative Ryan is Keynote Speaker at Congressional Breakfast

On Wednesday, October 23rd, NHTSA held our annual Congressional Breakfast. Moderated by Madie Robinson, chair of NHTSA's Government Relations Committee, attendees were informed about S.2619, *The Healthy Start Reauthorization Act of 2019*, introduced by Senator Sherrod Brown (D-OH) on October 17th. (See page 1 and also click [here](#) for comments made by the bipartisan co-sponsors of the Senate bill.)

Representative Tim Ryan (D-OH), lead sponsor of H.R.4801, *The Healthy Start Reauthorization Act of 2019* in the House, was the guest speaker. "I want to thank CEO Deborah Frazier and the Ohio Healthy Start groups for inviting me to speak at their National Healthy Start Conference in Washington, D.C. For more than 28 years, they have been on the frontline of the fight to re-



Congressman Tim Ryan with Deborah Frazier, NHTSA's CEO.

duce infant mortality and save our youngest citizens. It's more important now than ever that Congress supports their work, and my bipartisan legislation does exactly that. But it's going to take all of us to pass this critical Healthy Start bill. That is why it's so essential for you to talk to your member of Congress and let them know how vital this program is for families and communities across the country. Your voice matters. I'm proud to have introduced the Healthy Start Reauthorization Act to build upon the success of this critical program and continue to work to give every child, in every community, a healthy start in life," said Congressman Ryan. (See page 1 and also click [here](#) for comments by several of the co-sponsors of the House bill.)

Following Ryan's speech, hundreds of Healthy Start consumers and staff went to Capitol Hill to thank their Members of Congress for their past support or to educate legislators not yet familiar with Healthy Start about the importance of the program and its challenges and successes.

Use these links to keep track of the progress of the two bills: Senate: [S.2619](#); House: [H.R.4801](#).



Madie Robinson, chair of NHTSA's Government Relations Committee.

My Baby & Me Welcome Senator Brown in Columbus, OH

Lindsay Ciavarelli, Project Director of My Baby & Me, reported that in addition to making six Hill visits while in DC at NHTSA's 20th Annual Conference, they also hosted Senator Sherrod Brown for a press conference roundtable on October 25th in Columbus to discuss the Healthy Start Reauthorization Act. In attendance was Senator Brown and his staff, local news and press, Ciavarelli, their Columbus Public Health Family Health Administrator Shannon Yang, Ebonee Johnson, a current Healthy Start Outreach Worker who was also a program participant in 2016 and four families who are currently receiving Healthy Start services with My Baby & Me.



Senator Brown spent a lot of time asking the families about their experiences in life and in receiving services in the program. He also asked questions regarding how My Baby & Me can improve services and what they

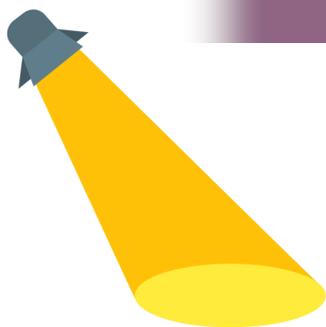
can do better. The families openly shared that they desired more visits with their home visitor and more education in between visits (for example, regarding milestones). Ciavarelli used that as an opportunity to advocate for additional staff and resources to ensure that families receive quality services tailored to the needs of each specific family. The roundtable went very well, and Senator Brown educated the press on the Healthy Start Reauthorization Act and the need for continued services.

↑ ↗ Sen. Brown with families and staff at My Baby & Me.



Attention Healthy Start Project Directors!

The above story is a perfect example of "Healthy Start in the News." Have you invited your Members of Congress to visit your project? They'll be in their districts part of December. Are you having a holiday party? Think about inviting them to the event! They'll appreciate the invitation and it will be a great chance to talk to them about the Healthy Start Reauthorization Act! Don't forget to take photos!



Getting off to a Healthy Start

Consumer Spotlight

NHSA Shines the Spotlight on a Dad from New Haven Healthy Start

Edmund, from New Haven, Connecticut, became involved with New Haven Healthy Start (NHHS) in February 2019. Recently released from the criminal justice system, Edmund secured employment as an electrician, and was determined to play a role in the life and healthy development of his four-month-old infant son, Edmund Jr. (EJ) During his participation in an NHHS Community Consortium meeting (CAN), Edmund shared with the Men's Services Manager, Rodney Moore, that in order for that to happen, he needed to gain real parenting skills.

What Edmund did not know at that time is that he would soon become a single dad, by gaining sole custody of EJ. Similar to other fathers throughout the country who are involved with Healthy Start programs, New Haven Healthy Start assisted with the parenting skills he needed. Beyond the parenting classes, NHHS continued to support Edmund and EJ, by providing diapers and connections to other resources. Edmund says, "Today EJ is a year old, and I would not have been able to get through the first year of being a single dad without the services, moral support and help from New Haven Healthy Start. I know there are a lot of good responsible single fathers who don't have a support network, but I'm thankful I had New Haven Healthy Start to guide and support me." Edmund goes on to say, "EJ and I have this bond now that can never be broken, and as a father, that's what I hoped for.

I love my son and want to be his first teacher, and watch his development throughout the years. I encourage all fathers to get involved with Healthy Start and discover the many ways that you can play a part in the lives of your children, because they need you, like my son needs me. Thank you, New Haven Healthy Start!"



Edmund and EJ.

Edmund, A Proud New Haven Healthy Start Father



Healthy Start Project Directors: Send Us Your Consumer Success Stories!

NHSA wants to continue to spotlight consumers in future issues of *Getting off to a Healthy Start*. We have a form with sample questions to help you interview your consumer. To request the form, send an email to bhaskins@nationalhealthystart.org. If you already have a story, send it in, along with photos of your consumer and family! (Make sure you have a waiver form in your files, of course.)



News and Resources for Dads and Programs that Work with Fathers/Men

2019 Fatherhood Summit on the Health of Men & Boys



Breakout group at the Summit.

The 2019 Fatherhood Summit on the Health of Men & Boys was another important and powerful gathering around the important work with fathers and men. Not only was it an amazing gathering of eager-to-learn newer leaders, but a good cadre of those who have been in the work for several years. We started from the position of “Ain’t No Stopping Us Now – We’re On the Move” and the sub-theme carried over the next two days. We were clear that the movement around fatherhood has picked up and specifically with the latest commitment required from the new grants for the 101 federally funded Healthy Start sites. It is the first time in MCHB history that such a requirement has been made. Therefore, we are building the infrastructure using the CAM (Core Adaptive Model) as the foundation.

“I had the blessed opportunity to attend your Conference last month in DC and walked away with a wealth of information that I know will assist me as I set out to create our fatherhood program...” (Summit attendee)

The Summit also was able to bring together several strong experts to help along the journey. On Day One, Dr. Jeff Johnson provided an historical overview, which put our work in its proper perspective and got us thinking strategically about our future. He was followed by others such as Mr. Patrick Patterson (access to national resources), Dr. Roland Thorpe (Men and Boys’ Health & Wellness) and Dr. Darrian McCarter (developmental challenges faced by black and brown boys on their way to fatherhood). Each expert presenter provided several strong take-aways around the work that is before us.

Day Two continued with additional experts providing tools to enhance the fatherhood work. There was Dr. Derrick Gordon (report on the texting for dads program as well as a strong presentation on data and evaluation), Stephanie Dukes and Tomás Harmon (effective communications and strategies) and breakout groups for more interactive engagements. In addition to the presenters, the various meals and breaks also provided solid opportunities for networking and gathering additional information and even greater support in the work.

“Thank you so much for that experience in Washington, DC. That was my first Summit and I know it won’t be my last!” (Summit attendee)

We hope that the Summit continues to create what we began. We are in this work together and want for us all to succeed together. If there are needs, we invite you to reach out to each other, the NHTSA website and/or the NICHQ TA Center (Kenn Harris). Looking forward to hearing great things from you in this work as we will be offering various opportunities to provide even greater support going forward. There is GREAT work to be done, but we believe there is “No Stopping Us Now.”

Submitted by Ken Scarborough, NHTSA Where Dads Matter Consultant.

Frequent Male Pot Use Linked to Early Miscarriages

According to a report in *Health Day*, the partners of men who smoke marijuana at least once a week are twice as likely to have a miscarriage compared to those whose partners do not use pot, according to new research. “Miscarriages related to frequent male pot use tended to occur within eight weeks of conception, which bolsters suspicions that marijuana use damages sperm in some essential way,” said lead researcher Alyssa Harlow, a doctoral student at the Boston University School of Public Health. More than 1,400 couples in Canada and the U.S. were studied and the male partners were asked about their marijuana use. The researchers took a number of other factors into consideration and said that “...only an association was seen in this study, and Harlow noted that there may be other factors associated with either marijuana use or miscarriage that weren’t taken into account. ‘More research is needed,’ Harlow said.”

Read the entire article, dated 10/14/19, [here](#). The March of Dimes also has more information about [marijuana and pregnancy](#).

Getting off to a Healthy Start

NHSA's 20th Annual Conference & Fatherhood Summit

Included are some of the photos we received from the Fatherhood Summit, Conference and the Hill Visits. More can be found on our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/natlhealthystartassoc > Photos > NHSA's 20th Annual Conference + Fatherhood Summit. Healthy Start Project Directors, if your project has not yet submitted your Hill Visit pictures, please send them to bhaskins@nationalhealthystart.org to be included in



← NHSA Past President and founding board member Belinda Pettiford with the "registration team," (l to r) Brandy Payne, Bea Haskins, Terra Bautista and Shynell Jones.

→ Chinwe Obianwu, RYT, leads an early-morning yoga class at the Conference.



↖ Dr. Arthur James (far L), Tuesday's Opening Plenary presenter, with (L to R) Clevanne Juice, "Gabby" manager at Boston University; Kenn Harris, NICHQ; and Tamela Milan Alexander, former NHSA Board member.



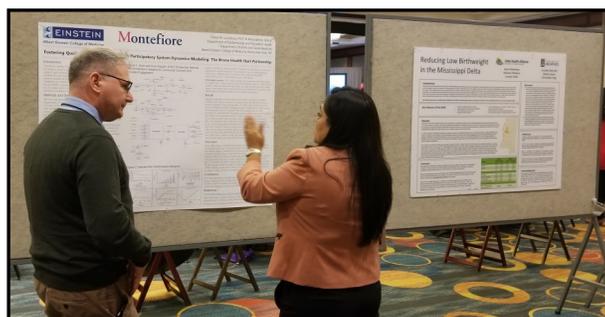
← Chair Angela Ellison ready to officially open the Conference.



↑ Presenters Michael Currie and David Williams from UnitedHealth with NHSA's CEO, Deborah Frazier, and Kimberly Sherman, Women's Health Specialist, DHSPS, who moderated a panel on Tuesday.



↑ & → Presentation Posters with conference attendees looking them over carefully or discussing them with the presenters.

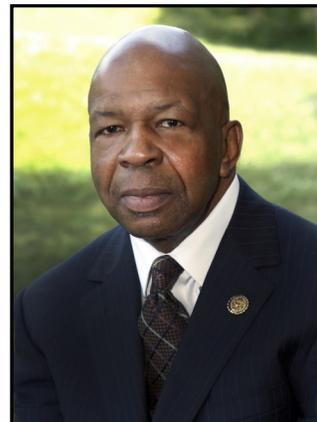


Congressional Hill Visits



← Honoring the late Congressman Elijah Cummings at his office on Capitol Hill. (Photo courtesy of New Haven Healthy Start)

→ The late Honorable Elijah Cummings, 1951-2019. Cummings, who represented Maryland's 7th District from 1996 to his death, spoke at NHSA's Congressional Hill Kickoff Rally in 2002. He was a champion of the Healthy Start Initiative. (Congressman Cummings' Official Photo, 2012)



New Haven Healthy Start (NHHS) on Capitol Hill



Irvin Draughn, NHHS father, putting the project's mark on a map in Senator Chris Murphy's (D-CT) office on Capitol Hill.



↗ Nieja Jackson, Project Access Program Coordinator, and Natasha Ray, NHHS Project Director, at Senator Murphy's office.

↗ Rodney Moore, NHSA Men's Service Manager, and Irvin Draughn, also at Murphy's office.



Ohio Healthy Start Team

← Team with Senator Sherrod Brown (D-OH), co-sponsor of Senate Reauthorization bill S. 2619, in his office on Capitol Hill. (See also pages 1 & 5)



→ Ohio team with Senator Rob Portman (R-OH). (Photo courtesy of Senator Portman's office)



Getting off to a Healthy Start

Congressional Hill Visits, continued

Louisiana Healthy Start Coalition (LHSC)



↑ & ↗ LHSC representatives meet with Senator Bill Cassidy (R-LA)

← Delegation meeting with Senator John Kennedy (R-LA)



→ LHSC members meet with Representative Cedric Richmond (D-2nd) in what was described as a “Louisiana family style conversation at the table or in the living room.” Coalition members shared information about the program and Representative Richmond opened the conversation with his own personal story.



Oregon Healthy Start Projects



→ Multnomah County Health Department Healthy Birth Initiatives representatives (see below) meet with Congresswoman Suzanne Bonamici (D-1st).



↖ Health Care Coalition of Southern Oregon (HCCSO) and Multnomah County Health Department Healthy Birth Initiatives (HBI) met with Senator Ron Wyden (D-OR). Pictured with the Senator are, from HBI, Violet Larry, Program Manager; DeAusha Mauesby, Community Health Specialist; Ronnie Meyers, Program Specialist Sr.; Alisha Johnson, Office Assistant; Jonna Malone and child, Consumer; Felecia Graham and child, Consumer; and from HCCSO, Amy Thuren, Executive Director; Lee Ann Grogan, Healthy Start Program Manager; Brianna More, Pregnancy Support Specialist, Women’s Health Center; Bridgette Potter, Community Health Worker, Josephine County Public Health.



↑ & → Representatives from HBI and HCCSO (see Wyden photo) also met with Senator Jeff Merkley (D-OR). Note on whose lap the little one is sitting in the photo to the right.



Congressional Hill Visits, continued

My Baby & Me (Columbus, OH)



→ Teneshia Lambey, Project Director, and Rev. Tommy Rodgers, Coalition Board Member, meet with Congressman Al Lawson, Jr. (D-FL 5th).



← My Baby & Me representatives outside the office of Congressman Anthony Gonzalez (R-OH-16th).

↓ & ↘ More photos of Senator Sherrod Brown (D-OH) with the My Baby & Me representatives.



Heart of Georgia Healthy Start



← Heart of Georgia representatives.

→ Outside the offices of Senator Johnny Isakson (R-GA).

↓ Another meeting on Capitol Hill.

↘ At the 20th Annual Conference!



Getting off to a Healthy Start

Congressional Hill Visits, continued

Central Hillsborough Healthy Start (Tampa, FL)

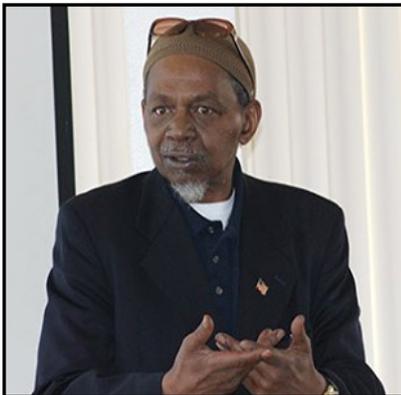


← Meeting with Shane Woods (2nd from L), Senior Policy Advisor in Representative Gus Bilirakis' (R-12th-FL) office.

→ Team meets with Representative Kathy Castor (D-14th-FL) in her office.



In Memoriam



NHTSA is saddened to learn of the passing on November 30th of one of our founding board members, Salim Al Nurridin. Salim, the former president and CEO of the Healthcare Consortium of Illinois, served on the board of directors from 1998-2001. Salim became a Legacy Advisory Committee member in 2012, serving in an advisory capacity to the board leadership team. He received NHTSA's C. Michael Savage Civic Statesmanship Award in 2013. "He was so passionate about Healthy Start and we are all better for knowing him," said Lisa Matthews, Project Director of MomsFirst in Cleveland, OH, who served with Salim on the board. Salim's energy and commitment will be missed by all who knew him and the Healthy Start initiative will miss his expertise and legislative knowledge.

Healthy Start Project Directors and Staff!

Do you have events planned for the holiday season?

Please send photos, news stories and other materials related to those events for inclusion in an upcoming issue of *Getting off to a Healthy Start!*

And remember to invite your elected officials – federal, state and local – to your events and be sure to take pictures of them!

Don't forget your consumer stories or "Healthy Start in the News."

Send everything to bhaskins@nationalhealthystart.org.