January 17, 2017

Dixie District Schools
16077 NE 19 Highway
Cross City, FL 32628

Re: Florida Healthy Babies

Dear Superintendent Thomas:

Recently, as part of the department’s Health Equity Program Council, the department invested $1.4 million in the Florida Healthy Babies initiative, which is a collaborative statewide initiative designed to positively influence social determinants of health and reduce racial disparities in infant mortality.

As part of the FHB initiative, community meetings were held in Dixie to analyze local data and develop an action plan to improve maternal health factors and social determinants of health related to disparities in infant deaths. Below are the three objectives decided by the Community Health Improvement Committee and listed in Dixie’s FHB Action Plan:

- Objective 1: By June 30, 2018, reduce the rate of women that smoke during pregnancy by 2 points, from 27.4 to 25.4
- Objective 2: By June 30, 2018, increase the overall rate for breastfeeding initiation by 3 points, from 70.4 to 73.4
- Objective 3: By June 30, 2018, decrease the overall rate of women that are obese at pregnancy from 32.3

To increase the overall rate of breastfeeding initiation, Florida Department of Health-Dixie has implemented a breast pump lending program within our Healthy Babies, Healthy Families, and School Health programs. Although, we don’t encourage or promote teen pregnancy, we do encourage and promote “healthy moms and babies”. Therefore, we are pleased to provide both the staff and students of Dixie District Schools with a commercial breast pump (and accessories/attachments) available for use in the High School Health Clinic.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss this further, please don’t hesitate to contact me, Lola Butler. On behalf of the FDOH-Dixie, I would like to personally say “thank you” for your assistance in eliminating infant mortality in Dixie County and we look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

Lola J. Butler, Community Health Educator
Florida Healthy Babies Project Contact-Dixie
Florida Department of Health-Dixie
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