

Safe Sleep Workshop

Chances and Services for Youth (CASY), Children's Bureau, Hamilton Center, West Central Indiana Healthy Start, Union Hospital

Terre Haute, October 22, 2020 – A Safe Sleep Workshop was organized on October 22nd to empower childcare providers to have safe sleep conversations with the families they serve in the Wabash Valley. The workshop was a collaborative effort between Chances and Services for Youth (CASY), Children's Bureau, Hamilton Center, West Central Indiana Healthy Start, Union Hospital, and several childcare providers as part of the local Safe Sleep Community Action Team.

The Union Health Perinatal Navigation Program (PNP) and West Central Indiana Healthy Start (WCIHS) are "critical to eliminating disparities in our region" according to Mr. Steven Holman, President and CEO of Union Health. Due to the collaborative efforts of these organizations, several babies are alive today.

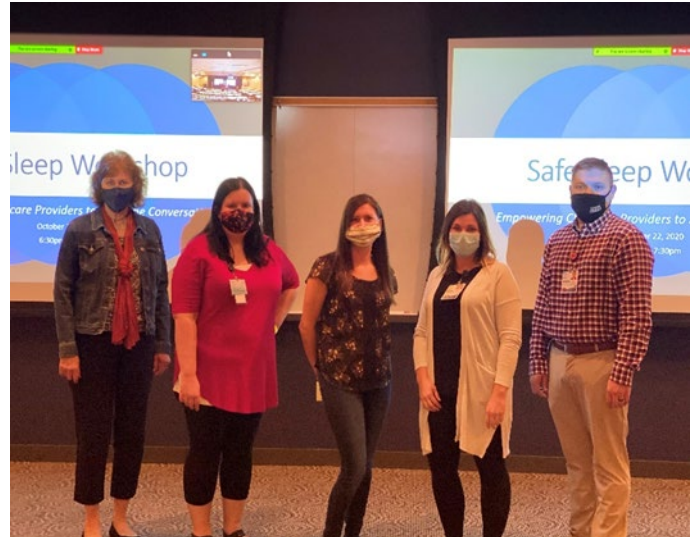
The Safe Sleep Community Action Team was first established in 2019, as part of the West Central Indiana Healthy Start initiative, to help tackle the Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) in our region relating to unsafe sleep. In 2016, the Central Southwestern Region, defined as Vigo and its surrounding counties, had the highest rate in the State (9.7). IMR is defined as the rate of infant death per 1,000 live births. It is worth noting that Indiana also had one of the worst rates in the nation. The vision for the community action team is to identify gaps in our community surrounding safe sleep such as education, training, etc... Several community organizations have come together to tackle this community issue as a team and to help reduce the number of infant deaths related to unsafe sleeping environments. They've played a key role in the IMR reduction which now stands at 4.6.

As part of this celebration, Sarah Fagg, chairperson of the Safe Sleep Community Action Team, hosted the workshop that included pediatrician Dr. Holder, UMG Pediatrics, as well as a childcare provider panel comprised of Busy Bee Daycare/Preschool, Hamilton Center Early Head Start Child Care, and Union Hospital Child Development Center.

Work still remains as too many babies in our region are dying due to lack of safe sleep conditions. The community action team will continue to strive to educate and provide resources and services to families and providers so that families can care for their babies safely and hopefully never have to live through such a tragic loss. It is everyone's responsibility, help us save your babies! Join the next Community Action Network meeting on November 17th from 10am-11:30am at the Landsbaum Center for Health Education to get involved (open to the entire community).

For more information contact West Central Indiana Healthy Start at 812-238-8171 or visit

www.allbabies.org



Pictured from Left to Right: Connie Hire, Amanda Posey, Kaylee Fagg, Sarah Fagg, & Matthew Herrick