

Letterhead or logo

Date_____

Dear Dr. Smith,

My name is Jennifer Miller, and I work with the Saginaw County Department of Community Health. I am getting in touch to alert you to a growing public health crisis. Last year in Saginaw County, 24 babies died before reaching their first birthday, for a rate of 8.2 infant deaths for every 1,000 live births. ***(Insert your own community statistics)*** While infant mortality in the United States has improved in the past few years, disparities persist between whites and persons of color, especially African Americans, Latinos and Native Americans. The Black infant mortality rate for residents of Saginaw County last year was 16.5 deaths per 1,000 live births, a rate 3 times higher than their white counterparts.

Infant mortality serves as a measure of a community's general health status as well as its social and economic well-being. Fetal and Infant Mortality Review (FIMR) is a community owned, action-oriented process that results in improved service systems and resources for women, infants and families. The FIMR process brings a community team together to examine ***confidential, de-identified*** cases of infant deaths. The purpose of these reviews is to understand how a wide array of local social, economic, public health, educational, environmental and safety issues relate to the tragedy of infant loss. After the review, a broad forum of interested community members-leaders, elected officials, providers, agencies, and advocates make recommendation to prevent future fetal and infant deaths.

We are developing an implementation plan for a FIMR in Saginaw County. We invite you to learn more about the process and hope to gain your commitment and buy in at upcoming community Town Hall Meeting:

March 3, 2018
Janes Street Community Health Center
5 p.m. – 7 p.m.
Speaker: Joseph F. Marshall, MD, FACOG
Light refreshments will be served

If no meeting is planned, end with general information on how stakeholders could communicate their willingness to participate to the sender.

We hope to see you at the meeting, along with your colleagues in Obstetrics, Pediatrics, Maternal Fetal Medicine, Nursing, Social work, lactation support, and mental health just to name a few. If you cannot make the Town Hall meeting but are interested in FIMR, please contact: Jennifer Miller: 517-326-8319, or jmiller@scdph.org. ***(insert program coordinator's name and contact information)***

Most sincerely,

Jennifer Miller, RN, MSN
Saginaw County Department of Community Health
1214 Addison Street, Saginaw, MI 48365