



BABY TALK

The Official Newsletter of the Ohio Association for Infant Mental Health

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FROM THE PRESIDENT! (OF OAIMH, THAT IS)

Twinkle Schottke

Hello & Happy Fall OAIMH members!

Hope you enjoyed your HOT summer and are ready to Fall into advocating more for the babies and families you serve! We are co-sponsoring the Southwest OAIMH Chapter's conference on Friday, October 21st in Cincinnati featuring Michael Trout.

Registrations are now open: [The Intergenerational Transmission of Trauma and Loss: Implications for Our Work](#)

We are also talking with anyone who has an interest in the social emotional development of young children. It is the goal of OAIMH to bring the Endorsement for Infant Mental Health to Ohio. We would like to partner with people and agencies that have the same goals.

Every Fall, I get to devote the OAIMH update to my favorite topic "Pregnancies and Babies". I included new articles, many statewide resources, and a membership application. Moms2B is continuing to grow and we will receive additional funding from Celebrate One, a Franklin County initiative to decrease infant mortality, to open 4 more sites in the Hot Spots in Columbus. I hope you enjoy these articles and information as much as I did getting them together. You will find them in the "articles and links" section of this webpage.

I want to thank the OAIMH Board members for working their regular jobs and graciously volunteering their time to attend board meeting, present on behalf of OAIMH and advocate with us at many levels. Without your dedication and commitment, we would not be able to continue the work that we do on behalf of the babies of Ohio. Thank you again!

If there is anything I can help you with or connections you need around the state send me an e-mail. Keep up the great work in advocating for our Babies of Ohio!!

Your OAIMH President,

Twinkle

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Please contact the Editor at john.kinsel@gmail.com with your comments, suggestions, submissions, etc. Thanks, THE ED.

Bringing The Michigan IMH Endorsement to Ohio Twinkle French

by John Kinsel and

After many years of research, planning and seeking funding, the OAIMH Board is very near to an announcement that the Michigan Model of Infant Mental Health Endorsement will be up and running in Ohio. The Board has been in conversation with Valery Alloy from the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse and a contract proposal has been submitted for that agency to provide funding for the Endorsement process. We have also been speaking with persons from the Ohio Department of Health, Jobs and Family Services and The Ohio Head Start Association who are interested in supporting this process.

We continue to seek support from all of those who are interested in having a 4-tiered, multi-disciplinary, affordable and portable endorsement for anyone in Ohio who loves very young children and wants to further their capacity to serve those young ones more fully. We would like to send a special shout out to Nicole Paradis and Faith Friedman from MIAIMH for helping learn more about the Endorsement and answering questions weekly! OAIMH has been working closely to bring the Infant Mental Health Endorsement to Ohio. You can access a "Getting Started Guide" that provides an overview of what will be required at each level by accessing it in the "articles and links" section of this webpage.

If you are interested in working toward bringing the Endorsement to Ohio, please send an e-mail to Twinkle.Scottke@osumc.edu. The more interested, involved people the better – our Ohio babies deserve the BEST!

Infant Mortality: The Struggle Continues

by John Kinsel, Ed.

Most of us are aware of Ohio's unacceptably low rankings in categories related to the rate of infant mortality, particularly for infants of color. Based on communication with colleague Dr. Arthur James, Twinkle Schottke reports that the most recent tabulations reported by National Vital Statistics Reports (Vol. 65, No. 4, 6/30/16; data from year 2014), show that Ohio ranks 39th for overall IMR with a rate of 6.85; 33rd for white infants at 5.38 and third from last for Black infants at 13.96.

The disparity based on race is appalling, the low rank of Ohio among other states is disturbing, but what is absolutely devastating is that so many families are suffering the loss of a child. Read more about Infant Mortality and other related Infant Mental Health issues by connected to the other items listed under "articles and links." Educate yourself, then share what you've learned with others who care about children. Together, advocate for improved care of mothers, infants and families so we can prevent as many of these deaths as possible!