

Grassroots MCH Initiative 2021 Annual Report

Respectively Submitted by:

Jack Turman, Jr, Ph.D.

Initiative Director and Principal Investigator

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Initiative Mission: Build the capacity of community members and organizations to bring about systems change that improves birth outcomes and infant development in marginalized neighborhoods across Indiana.

Year in Review: It is my pleasure to submit this 2021 annual report on the *Grassroots MCH Initiative*. On behalf of my entire team and our community partners, I want to express sincere gratitude for all the funding provided by Riley Children’s Foundation, Indiana Department of Health, Central Indiana Community Foundation and private philanthropists. Funds are being used to implement programs and drive systems change that are building the capacity of individuals, families, organizations and communities to improve birth outcomes and infant development.

This report highlights some of our 2021 accomplishments. I am so proud that our team continues to make great strides even in the face of the ongoing pandemic. The hard work speaks to the dedication and passion of all the Grassroots MCH Leaders, our staff, and our amazing community partners. We promise to keep moving this work forward to help Indiana families and communities. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or would like more information about any portion of our work.

Sincerely,

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Grassroots MCH Initiative Staff

Name	Percentage Effort	Role
Jack Turman, Jr., Ph.D. Professor, Dept. of Social and Behavioral Sciences, Fairbanks School of Public Health, Dept. of Pediatrics, School of Medicine	40%	Initiative Director, Principal Investigator
Erin Macey, Ph.D. Visiting Assistant Professor of Research, Dept. of Social and Behavioral Sciences, Fairbanks School of Public Health	100%	Senior Researcher, Director of Policy Advocacy Work, and AsktheWomen Project
Hongmei Nan, Ph.D. Professor, Dept. of Global Health, Fairbanks School of Public Health	30%	Social Epidemiologist – Data coordinator for initiative.
Kyle Minor, MFA Associate Professor, IUPUI Dept. of English	Summer Salary Support	Media/Film Director – media/communications consultant for initiative.
Debbie Oesch-Minor, MA Lecturer, IUPUI Dept. of English	Summer Salary Support	IUPUI Student Engagement Director/Advanced Grassroots MCH Training Director
Ashley Phillips, MPH	100%	Project Manager: Affordable Housing Community Projects, Grassroots MCH Leaders Training, Research with State Maternal Mortality Review Committee
Whitley Wynns, MA	100%	Project Manager: Faith-Based MCH, Teen Grassroots MCH Leader Development
Katie Lynch, MsED	100%	Project Manager: Early Childhood Education Center Programs, Marion County Public Health Department Safe Sleep Work Group
Ashley Mager, MPH Candidate Dept. of Social and Behavioral Sciences, Fairbanks School of Public Health	0% This Year – Supported by AmeriCorps and Title V MCH Grant	Project Manager: Mothers on the Rise
Bojung Seo, PhD Student Dept. of Epidemiology, Fairbanks School of Public Health	0% - Support by IU Fairbanks School of Public Health	Works under direction of Dr. Nan to complete MCH social epidemiology studies for project

**Grassroots MCH Initiative
2021 Highlights**

Objective 1: Train Grassroots Maternal and Child Health Leaders (GMCHL)

- Advanced Grassroots MCH Leadership Training Program: This intensive six month program was successfully completed by five GMCHL. Professor Deborah Oesch-Minor, Dept. of English, developed and implemented the training program. The entire training program is found at: <https://djoeschm5.wixsite.com/mysite>.
- Spanish Grassroots MCH Leadership Training: Our intern from the University of Florida, Ms. Natalia Machicote-Ferrer, translated all of our materials (training manual, recruitment flyer, consent form, and training session PowerPoint slides) into Spanish and trained our first Spanish speaking Grassroots MCH Leader.
- Over our first three years, we have trained 23 Grassroots MCH Leaders, representing five counties (Marion, Shelby, Bartholomew, Allen, Kosciusko). Of the 23 leaders, six are White, one is Hispanic and 16 are African American.
- Grassroots MCH Leaders as Change Agents – For a complete report of this, please see the appendix.
 - Ms. Deborah Fisher helped create and is now implementing the family narrative collection process for Indiana families who have suffered maternal mortality. Indiana is now only one of three states that collects family perspectives on this tragedy. Because of her hard work, she is now employed part time by the Indiana Dept. of Health to address maternal mortality and is the only community member on our state’s maternal mortality review board.
 - Ms. Nina Porter helped create and is helping implement the Mothers on the Rise initiative. This is recognized as an innovative national program to help mom/baby pairs transition from prison to home.
 - Ms. Victoria Jackson received certification in the Sexual Health Education (SHE) Program from the California State Public Health Department to help build our new Teen Grassroots MCH Leader program.
 - Ms. Tia Washum and Ms. Karla Bingham are working with Dr. Macey to lead the *AskTheWomen* Project. They are performing structured interviews of women residing in Jay, Shelby, Cass, St. Joseph and Grant counties. These counties now have some of our state’s highest infant mortality rates and they lack a Grassroots MCH presence. It is important to learn the social-economic conditions of these regions so we can provide support to address local causes of infant mortality.

Objective 2: Network Grassroots MCH Leaders with Local and State MCH Decision Makers

- Four GMCHL leaders and three staff members attended a State House interim public health study committee meeting. They explained the Grassroots MCH Initiative to the Committee Chair and four committee members and discussed key MCH state issues (see photo at right). Quote from Senator Charbonneau (Committee Chair): *“Thank you for joining us in the statehouse today. What a great learning experience you made happen today.”*
- Participated in introductory meetings with nine legislators over three months, received solicitations to provide feedback on MCH policy from three legislators.
- Upon a request from the State House MCH Caucus, we developed state MCH policy recommendations to address key social determinants of birth outcomes.
- Provided input to the State Supreme Court’s Eviction Taskforce regarding recent research showing the impact of homelessness on pregnancy outcomes.
- Contributed pregnancy accommodations in the workplace recommendations for the Indy Chamber’s “employer playbook,” currently under development.



Objective 3: Build the Capacity of Affordable Housing Communities to Improve Pregnancy and Infant Health Outcomes.

- Formed a partnership with Meadowlarks Apartments (46235 zip code), a section eight housing community with approximately 1000 residents.
- In late September we hosted our first community baby shower, with five families attending (photo at right shows GMCHL teaching residents). All attendees were trained in safe sleep practice and provided a Pack n' Play and a safe sleep packet.
- In early November we hosted the second community baby shower with 18 families attending. We provided skill training in strategies to support mental health during the prenatal and postpartum periods and provided referrals to local maternal mental health service agencies and home visiting agencies.



Objective 4: Build the Capacity of Early Childhood Education Centers (ECEC) to Improve Birth and Infant Health Outcomes.

- On-line Safe Sleep training for ECEC providers: Our team developed safe sleep resources and tools with SPARK Early Learning Lab's Content Development group. SPARK is the technical assistance provider for Indiana's early childhood education programs.
- Progress on Paths to Quality ratings: 67% of the programs we engaged in 2020-21 made progress with goals of improving progress in Paths to Quality.
- Development of a Childcare Network: The importance of the Childcare Network became evident during COVID-19 state shutdown. Childcare Network meetings occur monthly to support both a peer network and offer training and resources that providers identified to sustain high quality practices. The Childcare Network Meetings have welcomed representatives from multiple health and education outlets, including many of our community partners and Advisory board members.
- Engagement of parents by ECEC providers: 82% of our Childcare Network is engaging and educating parents around safe sleep and administering surveys to the families in their programs.
- Creating New ECEC in Marginalized Neighborhoods:
 - *Opening of Minnie Hartman:* A ECEC site in a zip code at highest risk for infant mortality was a collaborative effort of United Way, our project and others and brought 16 infant slots as well as toddler-preschool in an area considered a childcare desert.
 - *Volunteers of America:* Our partnership with VOA (a family focused residential addiction treatment center) allowed us to fully finish 3 maternal-care rooms. These spaces allow mothers to attend Safe Sleep trainings, attend skills training, complete case management, attend Child-Family Team Meetings (DCS), and complete parenting time. Mothers will be allowed to have supervised visitation in these spaces if their child has been removed from their care. Each mother is trained in safe sleep and provided a pack n' play upon departure.
 - *Wheeler Mission:* Wheeler Mission serving homeless women and children opened their new child care facility. This partnership allowed us to provide all the most necessary pieces of furniture and developmentally appropriate materials to the 2 infant classrooms (16 available slots). These classrooms also provide space for parenting classes that are popular, and often mandated, for families with infants. Additionally, this facility became a Safe Sleep training site with the goal of training each mother and providing them Safe Sleep equipment upon departure.

Objective 5: Mothers on the Rise: Improving the Transition of Mother/Baby Pairs from the Indiana Women’s Prison (IWP) Nursery Unit to their Home Community.

- Received 2020 funding (\$55,000) from Indiana Department of Health to help support the creation of a coordinated system of care for mother/baby pairs transitioning from IWP Nursery to community – we termed this initiative Mothers on the Rise.
- We have worked in partnership with the Indiana Dept. of Correction Transitional Healthcare Team (see photo at right) to develop the nation’s first coordinated transition program for mother/baby pairs leaving a prison nursery.
- We are serving 7 mother/baby pairs residing in: Hendricks, Madison, Allen, Kosciusko and Grant counties. We completed serving one mother/baby pair residing in Marion county. Accomplishments:



- No woman has returned to the justice system.
- No mother/baby pair has been separated – we successfully advocated for a modification of placement for one mother who was to spend six months in jail after serving her IWP sentence. She is able to serve her sentence at home with her baby and working with our program staff. Here is a quote from her: *“You are such a blessing! Your whole team! I’m looking forward to meeting you (in person)! I cannot express what a blessing you ALL are to me and my family. I will be able to spend the holidays with my son and family. I’m speechless!!!! Thank you! My baby thanks you too! Happy holidays to you.”*
- We have provided all essential clothing and hygiene needs for each mother/baby pair upon release, including needed infant care supplies, and a laptop.
- Each mother/baby pair is connected to coordinated system of care that includes: a local Grassroot MCH Leader who is also trained as a community navigator to help with positive social support and connect the mother to local resources, a Healthy Families Home Visitor, a Community Partners Case Manager, our community nurse navigator (a GMCHL who is a labor/delivery nurse). They are all coordinated by our Mothers on the Rise program administrator. (Photo shows program administrator and 2 community navigators with Dr. Turman).
- Mothers have been successful in: getting employed, receiving medical care and mental health services for them and their children, utilizing food banks, signing up for social services.
- We developed Medical Roadmaps for all of women in IWP. These will be provided upon each woman’s release to help them navigate health care in community.
- We provided the Transitional Healthcare Team with Maternal Standards of Care and are using a quality improvement approach to help them implement these for each mother on the Nursery unit.



Objective 6: Build the Capacity of Faith-Based Organizations to Improve Pregnancy and Infant Health Outcomes

- We developed and piloted a framework of spiritual care engagement for two Indianapolis congregations (Broadway United Methodist Church (BUMC), Greater Faith House of Prayer (GFHP)). Below we provide some of our successes associated with our aims for this objective.
 - *Develop Positive MCH Communication Strategies:* Sharing safe sleep information and safe sleep best practices at BUMC Farmers Market, emails/newsletters developed and shared during April and May to highlight the infant mortality data in the churches' neighborhood, participated in Gabby Gail Talk Show (GFHP) to discuss topics associated with infant mortality and maternal and child health, provided safe sleep posters for display across congregational spaces, pastors preached about the importance of mothers and supportive networks.
 - *Develop Life Span MCH Programming:* Held an activity every Sunday in May for mothers from the community to come together to fellowship and listen to guest speakers talk about the importance of mental, physical, and emotional health. A fall community baby shower was held for an expecting woman from the community, other expecting mothers were encouraged to attend to receive free infant resources for newborns.
 - *Strengthen and Equip MCH Leaders for Churches:* Trained and currently supporting a GMCHL that serves both congregations, trained BUMC teen leaders and interested community members to be Safe Sleep Ambassadors.
 - *Honor MCH Data and Stories:* Artwork was commissioned by two artists from the congregation to use three canvas' to tell the story about stress of mothers, importance of supportive networks and safe sleep as it relates to infant/maternal mortality.
 - *Connect with Local MCH Resources:* Connected with state and county agencies providing MCH services, connected with Milk Bank and Diaper Bank and Rafael Health Center's Patient Advocate.



Objective 7: Build the Capacity of the Marion County Public Health Department's Fetal And Infant Mortality Community Action Team to Implement Safe Sleep Practice in Communities

- 644 community members reached with safe sleep education/engagement.
- Hosted 4 Father-Focused Safe Sleep Events, reaching over 20 fathers in Marion County with safe sleep education and resources, managed in-person engagements while still honoring COVID-19 safety procedures. (see photo at right)
- Collaborated with Indiana Department of Education and Indianapolis Public Schools to adapt our Youth Safe Sleep Toolkit (<https://www.doe.in.gov/sites/default/files/standards/youth-safe-sleep-toolkit-idoe.pdf>), incorporating state standards and IPS Strategic Plan 2025. Ft. Wayne Community School District has adopted the curriculum for inclusion in all 8th grade health classes.
- Piloted the toolkit with YMCA summer programming- engaging 111 children to become Youth Safe Sleep Ambassadors!



- Partnership with the Black Breastfeeding Coalition and MD Wise to engage in virtual and in-person Safe Sleep events.
- Participated WIC Farmer's Markets Events throughout the summer to share safe sleep resources. (see photo below)
- Black and Minority Health Expo: Supported this Community Engagement with Safe Sleep Skill Building. (see photo at right)
- Created a series of safe sleep infographics in foreign languages to reach immigrant populations we serve in Marion County. (see below)



Objective 8: Implement a Broad Spectrum Communication Strategy to Raise Awareness About Grassroots MCH Initiative

Scholarly Publications:

- Turman, Jr., JE, Swigonski, N (2021) Changing Systems that Influence Birth Outcomes in Marginalized Zip Codes. *Pediatrics*. July. *Pediatrics* (2021) 148 (1): e2020049651. <https://doi.org/10.1542/peds.2020-049651>.
- Swigonski NL, James B, Wynns W, Casavan K. (2021) Physical, Mental, and Financial Stress Impacts of COVID-19 on Early Childhood Educators. *Early Child Educ J*. Jun 28:1-8. doi: 10.1007/s10643-021-01223-z. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 34220181; PMCID: PMC8237542.
- Oesch-Minor, D.J. (in press) ePortfolios as vital tools for grassroots leadership training initiatives. *The AAEEBL ePortfolio Review*, 5(1), 28-37.

National Conference Presentation:

- Wynns, W., Lynch, K., Swigonski, N. (2021) Engaging Childcares to Impact Infant Mortality. CityMatCH conference, (virtual).

State Presentations:

- Jack Turman, Jr. *Transition of Mothers and Babies from Prison*. 2021 Indiana Labor of Love Summit
- LaToya Hale, Tia Washum, Deborah Fisher (All three are Grassroots MCH Leaders). *Check Yourself-What is your Bias Temperature?* 2021 Prosperity Indiana Summit

National Media Exposure:

- The Radio Health Journal (nation's largest health related radio broadcast) published its story about Mothers on the Rise - https://mediatracks.com/shows/RHJ_20-48.mp3
- The National Center for Fatality Review and Prevention created a profile of our work as a community resource to address infant mortality: <https://www.ncfrp.org/community-resources/>

State and Local Media Exposure:

- Hope for Women Magazine published story about importance of Grassroots MCH Leaders in addressing infant and maternal health: <https://www.hopeforwomenmag.com/hope-for-women-magazine/2021/1/17/safer-pregnancies-for-women-in-indiana>

- The Lebanon Reporter published a story about the importance of our Mothers on the Rise program: https://www.reporter.net/news/local_news/mothers-on-the-rise/article_644ee1da-7542-11eb-8e32-1bc964c58b65.html
- Indy Star Op-Ed Piece Published October 14, 2021, written by Grassroots MCH Leader, Ms. Stephanie Caraway, entitled: *I've been evicted twice. My 'work ethic' is not the problem. Here's what is.* <https://www.indystar.com/story/opinion/2021/10/14/eviction-moratorium-indiana-black-women-wage-gap-higher-eviction-rates-op-ed/6094968001/>
 - Note: This led to Ms. Caraway being invited by the Editor-in-Chief of the Indy Star to serve on an Indy Star Panel about the eviction crisis in Indiana and how it impacts women and children.
- Northwest Indiana Times Op-Ed Piece Published November 4, 2021 written by Grassroots MCH Leader, Ms. Latisha Bolden, entitled: *After being homeless while pregnant, my baby is a miracle, but nobody should go through that.* https://www.nwitimes.com/opinion/after-being-homeless-while-pregnant-my-baby-is-a-miracle-but-nobody-should-go-through/article_16774cab-c926-5337-930f-93e6bfac5619.html
 - Note: This led to Ms. Bolden and Dr. Macey being invited by Prosperity Indiana to speak at Opportunity Starts at Home-Indiana Chapter webinar, hosted by Prosperity Indiana.

Growing Social Media Communication Platforms:

- LinkedIn: <https://rb.gy/4wjlf6> and YouTube: <https://rb.gy/umyp7u> sites created.
- Facebook: established 9/10/2021, grown to 67 followers
- Twitter: 26% increase in followers since 9/10
- Instagram: 8% increase in followers since 9/10
- LinkedIn: 13% increase in followers since 9/10

Objective 9: Increase Funding for The Grassroots MCH Initiative

- Awarded a Title V grant (\$171,000) from the Indiana Department of Health to support our Mothers on the Rise Initiative for an initial two years.
- Awarded \$50,000 grant from Central Indiana Community Foundation. Grant title: *Using Narrative Analyses to Help Community Foundations Dismantle Structural Racism Impacting African American Women.* We recently received another \$15,000 in private and corporate philanthropic support to help conduct this project.
- Received a private gift (\$15,000) to support two AmeriCorps workers for our Initiative for the 2021-22 academic year.

Appendix: Leadership Success of GMCHL Over Initial Three Years of the Grassroots MCH Initiative

Grassroots MCH Leader	Networking Connection Provided by Grassroots MCH Initiative Staff	Leadership Opportunity Performed by Grassroots MCH Leader
LaToya Hale	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indiana State Dept. of Health • Management of Affordable Housing Communities • Connected with Healthy Start Home Visiting Program • Prosperity Indiana • Central Indiana Community Foundation • Dept. of English faculty from The Ohio State University, and University of Kentucky 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provided lecture on Social Determinants of Health to MCH branch of State Dept. of Health • Plenary Speaker at Statewide Summit on Infant Mortality (first time community member invited to this position – 1500 members in audience) • Helped create content and delivery methods for state wide Title V assessment • Created local focus group for State Dept. of Health Safe Sleep Study Group to gather local input on state safe sleep initiatives. • Representative to Hoosier Action – an advocacy group working on behalf of Indiana mothers. • Presented about implicit bias and MCH at 2020 Prosperity Indiana virtual summit. • Helped organize and lead five MCH outreach and skill training sessions at affordable housing communities. • Conducted 100 Acts of Kindness in affordable housing community to learn of mothers’ needs, created Mom Talk Mondays to virtually support moms during pandemic. • Working with Central Indiana Community Foundation and Dept. of English faculty from The Ohio State University, and University of Kentucky to develop a model, honoring personal narratives, to address structural racism in their communities.
Ilene Loper	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indiana State Dept. of Health • Management of Affordable Housing Communities • Indiana Institute for Working Families (now called - Indiana Community Action Poverty Institute) • Connected with Healthy Start Home Visiting Program • State Representatives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Served as community member on local Fair Housing Board. Ms. Loper is a resident in an affordable housing complex and was able to provide MCH insight. • Created local focus group for State Dept. of Health Safe Sleep Study Group to gather local input on state safe sleep initiatives. • Helped organize and lead four MCH outreach and skill training sessions at affordable housing communities. • Conducted 100 Acts of Kindness in affordable housing community to learn of mothers’ needs, created Mom Talk Mondays to virtually support moms during pandemic. • Advocating for State MCH policies
Vera Moore	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State Representative • Management of Affordable Housing Communities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Met with State Representative regarding the important of policy changes to support grandparents who are raising their biological children. • Helped organize and lead two MCH outreach and skill training sessions at affordable housing communities.
Kelly Evans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indiana State Dept. of Health 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provided lecture on Social Determinants of Health to MCH branch of State Dept. of Health

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management of Affordable Housing Communities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plenary Speaker at Statewide Summit on Infant Mortality (first time community member invited to this position – 1500 members in audience) • Helped organize and lead three MCH outreach and skill training sessions at affordable housing communities. • Created local focus group for State Dept. of Health Safe Sleep Study Group to gather local input on state safe sleep initiatives.
LaTisha Bolden	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prosperity Indiana 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Created an Op-Ed piece published November 2021 on the impact of homelessness on pregnancy, followed up by being a speaking at an Opportunity Starts at Home – Indiana Chapter Webinar regarding need for affordable housing for women during prenatal and postpartum periods.
Nina Porter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Americorps – Center for Interfaith Cooperation • Indiana Dept. of Correction • Indiana State Dept. of Health • State Representatives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completed first year of Americorps Service, currently completing second year. Helped develop and is helping implement – Mothers on the Rise Initiative. This initiative works to help mother/baby pairs transition from the nursery unit of the Indiana Women’s Prison to their home community. She has received national press on this initiative, see links: Kaiser Article Link: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ https://khn.org/news/incarcerated-mothers-reentry-prison-program-helps-new-mom-inmates-transition/ ○ The Radio Health Journal segment. ○ https://mediatracks.com/shows/RHJ_20-48.mp3 • Created local focus group for State Dept. of Health Safe Sleep Study Group to gather local input on state safe sleep initiatives. • Advocated to state policy makers for MCH issues.
Deb Fisher	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prosperity Indiana • Indiana State Dept. of Health • Marion County Health Department • State MCH Caucus • US House of Representative for local area. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presented about implicit bias and MCH at 2020 Prosperity Indiana virtual summit. • Helped create the state Dept. of Health family narrative collection process for families who suffered maternal mortality. Hired part time by the State Dept. of Health to administer family narratives from families who suffered maternal mortality. Now sits on the State Maternal Mortality Review Committee. • Helps the Marion County Fetal and Infant Mortality Review Board’s Community Action Team by providing community connections to safe sleep work group. • Helped support the creation of the Indiana State House first MCH Caucus. She created an MCH policy guide for the Caucus regarding the policy needs to address structural racism barriers to MCH in Indiana. • Provided feedback to local US House of Representative member regarding US House bill to increase maternal and infant mortality education programs in our nation.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Led the development of two policy briefs provided to state law makers – one policy on Grandparent Rights, one policy on the Elimination of the Pink Tax.
Victoria Jackson	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indiana State Dept. of Health • California Public Health Department • Marion County WIC • State Representatives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provided lecture on Social Determinants of Health to MCH branch of State Dept. of Health • Plenary Speaker at Statewide Summit on Infant Mortality (first time community member invited to this position – 1500 members in audience) • Received certification in Sexual Health Education, utilized to create a teen comprehensive sex education program for implementation in communities in Indianapolis. • Spoke at the Black Breastfeeding Coalition to suggest strategies to improve breastfeeding rates in the local African American Community. • Advocated to state policy makers for MCH issues.
Destiny Faceson	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indiana State Dept. of Health • Marion County Health Department • State MCH Caucus • US House of Representative for local area. • EARN in the Midwest/Economic Policy Institute • State Representatives • Central Indiana Community Foundation • Dept. of English faculty from The Ohio State University, and University of Kentucky • Indiana Public Health Association • The Equality Pay\$ Coalition 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provided lecture on Social Determinants of Health to MCH branch of State Dept. of Health • Plenary Speaker at Statewide Summit on Infant Mortality (first time community member invited to this position – 1500 members in audience) • Helps the Marion County Fetal and Infant Mortality Review Board’s Community Action Team by providing community connections to maternal mental health work group. • Helped support the creation of the Indiana State House first MCH Caucus. She created an MCH policy guide for the Caucus regarding the policy needs to address structural racism barriers to MCH in Indiana. • Provided feedback to local US House of Representative member regarding US House bill to increase maternal and infant mortality education programs in our nation. • Participated in the development of two policy briefs provided to state law makers – one policy on Grandparent Rights, one policy on the Elimination of the Pink Tax. • Helped create a proposal for EARN in the Midwest/Economic Policy Institute to address racial and gender financial inequity in Indiana. • Advocated for MCH policies at State House. • Helped create content and delivery methods for state wide Title V assessment • Participated in panels and press conferences to advance social determinants of MCH
Julia Whitlock	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indiana State Department of Health • State Representatives • Bartholomew County Public Health Dept. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Created local focus group for State Dept. of Health Safe Sleep Study Group to gather local input on state safe sleep initiatives. • Advocated for MCH Policies • Provide consult for local Fetal and Infant Mortality Review Board • Organize safe sleep display for local community baby shower.

Ashley Giles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bartholomew County Public Health Dept. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide consult for local Fetal and Infant Mortality Review Board
Kim Walker	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indiana State Dept. of Health • 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provided lecture on Social Determinants of Health to MCH branch of State Dept. of Health • Plenary Speaker at Statewide Summit on Infant Mortality (first time community member invited to this position – 1500 members in audience)
Tia Washum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indiana State Dept. of Health • Indiana Institute for Working Families (now called - Indiana Community Action Poverty Institute) • State Representatives • Prosperity Indiana • Indiana Community Action Association • US Senator Staff 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provided lecture on Social Determinants of Health to MCH branch of State Dept. of Health • Plenary Speaker at Statewide Summit on Infant Mortality (first time community member invited to this position – 1500 members in audience) • Completed an internship with the Indiana Institute for Working Families (now called - Indiana Community Action Poverty Institute) to advance MCH policies in the state house, wrote blogs advocating for pregnant mothers suffering from substance use disorder, wrote blog regarding financial inequities for low income mothers. • Presented about implicit bias and MCH at 2020 Prosperity Indiana virtual summit. • Helped develop and is conducting structured interviews of women living in low income communities to understand systems barriers to their prenatal and postnatal health. • Advocated for MCH policies to staffer for US Senator from Indiana
Lucrezia Hatfield	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Central Indiana Community Foundation • Dept. of English faculty from The Ohio State University, and University of Kentucky 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working with Central Indiana Community Foundation and Dept. of English faculty from The Ohio State University, and University of Kentucky to develop a model, honoring personal narratives, to address structural racism in their communities.
Karla Bingham	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indiana Community Action Association 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Helped develop and is conducting structured interviews of women living in low income communities to understand systems barriers to their prenatal and postnatal health.
Stephanie Caraway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Central Indiana Community Foundation • Dept. of English faculty from The Ohio State University, and University of Kentucky • IU Dept. of Pediatrics, and IUHealth Chaplaincy Service • Indy Star Editor in Chief • State Representatives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working with Central Indiana Community Foundation and Dept. of English faculty from The Ohio State University, and University of Kentucky to develop a model, honoring personal narratives, to address structural racism in their communities. • Helped develop faith-based MCH initiatives for two congregations. • Wrote an Op-Ed piece about the root causes of housing evictions for Black mothers, and spoke on a panel for the Indy Star about the eviction crisis. • Advocated to state policy makers for MCH issues.
Elizabeth Fleming	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indiana Dept. of Correction 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Helping implement Mothers on the Rise Initiative by serving as the Nurse Navigator for the mom/baby pairs across the state. This initiative works to help mother/baby pairs transition from the nursery unit of the Indiana Women’s Prison to their home community.

Deb Parker	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indiana Dept. of Correction 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Helping implement Mothers on the Rise Initiative in Kosciusko County, IN. This initiative works to help mother/baby pairs transition from the nursery unit of the Indiana Women’s Prison to their home community.
Ashley Nichter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indiana Dept. of Correction 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Helping implement Mothers on the Rise Initiative in Allen County, IN. This initiative works to help mother/baby pairs transition from the nursery unit of the Indiana Women’s Prison to their home community.
Aida Batista	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Management of Affordable Housing Communities State Representatives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Helped organize and lead two MCH outreach and skill training sessions at affordable housing communities. Advocated to state policy makers for MCH issues.