

The DPH Bulletin

From the Delaware Division of Public Health

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The Office of Health Crisis Response (OHCR) was recently established within the Division of Public Health's Emergency Medical Services and Preparedness Section to address Opioid Use Disorder and other emerging health crises. Staff surround OHCR Director Kate Brookins, CCDP, CAADC, third from right. Photo by Donna Sharp.

DPH's Office of Health Crisis Response created to address Opioid Use Disorder

The newly created Office of Health Crisis Response (OHCR) is saving lives and preventing Opioid Use Disorder (OUD) for the Delaware Department of Health and Social Services' (DHSS) Division of Public Health (DPH).

Based within the Emergency Medical Services and Preparedness Section, OHCR manages a three-year, \$5.8 million Overdose Data to Action grant awarded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in 2019. According to OHCR Director Kate Brookins, CCDP, CAADC, work is closely aligned with the DHSS Division of Substance Abuse and Mental Health (DSAMH). DSAMH focuses on outpatient and residential drug and alcohol treatment. OHCR concentrates on the education, information, and prevention of OUD.

The young office created Community Response Teams in each county to respond to crisis sentinel events, such as a bad batch of illicit drugs in an area, or a pill mill shutdown. It also created the OpiRescue Delaware app and will refresh the Help is Here website (www.helpisherede.com).

Contact OHCR at 302-223-1313, Kate.Brookins@delaware.gov, or by mail at Office of Health Crisis Response, Division of Public Health, 100 Sunnyside Road, Prickett Building, Smyrna, DE 19977.



DELAWARE HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES
Division of Public Health

DPH, DHMIC award grants to reduce infant and maternal mortality

In December, DPH and the Delaware Healthy Mother and Infant Consortium (DHMIC) awarded \$327,925 in mini-grants to six community organizations for a one-year period.

The grants are the state's first to reduce infant and maternal mortality and aim to narrow the wide variance in birth outcomes between black women and white women by building state and local capacity and testing small-scale innovative strategies. Grant recipients will provide targeted services to women of childbearing age (15 to 44 years), children, and their families if they live in zones identified by DPH's Healthy Women Healthy Babies program as being at high risk for poor birth outcomes.

Awardees are: Delaware Adolescent Program Inc.; Reach Riverside Development Corporation; Rose Hill Community Center; Delaware Coalition Against Domestic Violence; Delaware Multicultural and Civic Organization; and Hispanic American Association of Delaware Mamas felices hijos felices (Happy Mothers, Happy Children).

For more information, visit DEThrives.com.



On December 10 in Dover, six Delaware community organizations received the state's first mini-grants to reduce infant and maternal mortality, and to narrow the wide variance in birth outcomes between black women and white women. The Delaware Department of Health and Social Services, Division of Public Health (DPH) and the Delaware Healthy Mother and Infant Consortium (DHMIC) awarded the grants, totaling \$327,925 for a one-year period, to build state and local capacity and to test small-scale innovative strategies. Pictured with the grant awardees are (front row) Susan Noyes, DHMIC Co-Chair, at far left; Lieutenant Governor Bethany Hall-Long, second from left; State Representative Melissa Minor-Brown, second from right; and DPH Director Dr. Karyl Rattay, at far right. Photo by Donna Sharp.