

NACCHO

National Association of County & City Health Officials

The National Connection for Local Public Health

June 19, 2018

David de la Cruz, Ph.D., MPH
Committee's Designated Federal Official
Advisory Committee on Infant Mortality (ACIM)
Office of the Secretary for Health
Maternal and Child Health Bureau
Health Resources and Services Administration
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
5600 Fishers Lane, Room 18N25,
Rockville, MD 20857

Dear Dr. de la Cruz:

On behalf of the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO), I write in support of the nomination of Maxine Reed-Vance, M.S. to serve as a member of the Advisory Committee on Infant Mortality (ACIM). NACCHO is the voice of the nearly 3,000 local health departments across the country. These city, county, metropolitan, district, and tribal departments work every day to protect and promote health and well-being for all people in their communities.

Ms. Reed-Vance serves as the Director of Quality Assurance and Clinical Affairs for Baltimore Healthy Start, Inc (BHS). Since 2006 she has been developing, implementing, and monitoring clinical practice protocols across the organization. She works with each program component to develop and report on quality and outcome measures. Ms. Reed-Vance also serves as a liaison to the organization's research review and approval process.

At BHS, Ms. Reed-Vance focuses on innovative practices directed at making the health care system more accessible and responsive to patients and more cost effective for all stakeholders. BHS is a community-based liaison to the formal health care delivery system and believes the system works best when there is collaboration among providers and those served. The organization has also forged new ground in providing family planning services in clients' homes, which has led to a reduction in short inter-pregnancy intervals.

Ms. Reed-Vance has also been at the forefront of developing and implementing a new paradigm for prenatal group education (Belly Buddies[®]) as an added means for improving maternal and infant outcomes. Additionally, as a Principal Investigator of a National Institute of Child Health and Human Development-funded network study on stress and resiliency factors associated with maternal allostatic load, she is at the cutting edge of creative research yielding new evidence on the multilevel mechanisms of health disparities. She was selected as one of 73 Innovation Advisors and piloted a new service component: family planning services coupled with well-child visits at pediatric clinics. These services are provided in all Baltimore communities at high risk of unintended pregnancies and short inter-pregnancy intervals. Her participation in the Advisors program grounded BHS as a source of continued originality



and enhanced their ability to take innovations to scale to yield systems savings, as well as facilitate the mission of caring for women and families in vulnerable communities.

Local health departments are a key partner with healthcare providers, community-based organizations and hospitals in improving maternal and infant outcomes throughout the United States. Ms. Reed-Vance has served as a member of the NACCHO Maternal and Child Health Workgroup since 2017. Her clinical and public health background and experience enable her to provide comprehensive policy and program perspectives to support and evaluate implementation of U.S. government activities related to maternal and child mortality. Her research and nursing background and connections with local communities will be invaluable in helping the committee make recommendations that are evidence-based, progressive, and realistic.

Ms. Reed-Vance's has demonstrated her ability to address the challenges associated with maternal and infant health outcomes. The breadth and depth of her experience make her an ideal candidate for this position. Ms. Reed-Vance would be a valuable addition to ACIM, and we give our strongest recommendation for her candidacy. If you have any questions, please contact Nikia Sankofa, Director, Breastfeeding at 202-507-4279/nfuller-sankofa@naccho.org

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lori Tremmel Freeman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Lori Tremmel Freeman, MBA
CEO