






THE MOTHER BABY CONNECTION

A publication of the Oklahoma Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies Coalition



March 2010

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Oklahoma Institute for Child Advocacy Has a New Executive Director



Linda Terrell, well-known leader on children’s advocacy issues began serving as OICA’s new Executive Director in January.

Terrell is a recognized statewide leader on children’s advocacy Issues. Before joining OICA, she served as Executive Director at the Center for Children and Families, Inc., and has worked as a strategic partner with OICA on several issues and initiatives.

“Over the past 26 years, OICA has earned a national reputation and forged a solid statewide coalition on mission-critical issues for Oklahoma,” said Terrell. “I am very pleased to join this great team of advocates who are working to improve the lives of Oklahoma’s children.”

OKHMHB Elects New Co-Chair



Mildred Ramsey was elected OKHMHB co-chair at the December Coalition Meeting. Together with Colleen Ayres-Griffin of Tulsa, she will help to lead the coalition forward in 2010.

Mildred Ramsey, R.N., M.P.H., is Director for Children First, Oklahoma’s Nurse Family Partnership site and has held this position since 2004. Her Children First/NFP experience began in February 1997 as a nurse home visitor on the Tulsa team. When the program moved to statewide implementation, she joined the staff at Oklahoma State Department of Health as a State Nurse Consultant. As State Nurse Consultant she provided training for the Oklahoma nurses, performed site visits and provided technical assistance to sites across the state.

At the state level she participates in the Home Visitation Leadership Coalition, Improving Infant Outcomes Workgroup, and Oklahoma Association of Infant Mental Health.

Welcome Mildred!



Coffee with Linda

OICA and it’s board of directors would like to cordially invite you to come have coffee with Linda. Catch up on current legislative agenda topics and our vision for the future. If you would like to attend coffee with Linda please RSVP to cwalker@oica.org for any of the dates listed below:

- Thursday March 11th, 7:30–9:00 a.m.
- Wednesday March 24th, 3:30–5:00 p.m.



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Have You Heard? Text4baby is here!

An educational program of the National Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies Coalition (HMHB), [text4baby](#) delivers timely health tips via text message to those who need it most.



Women who sign up for the service by texting BABY to 511411 (or BEBE for Spanish) receive three free SMS text messages each week timed to their due date or baby's date of birth. These messages focus on a variety of topics critical to maternal and child health, including birth defects prevention, immunization, nutrition, seasonal flu, mental health, oral health and safe sleep. [Text4baby](#) messages also connect women to prenatal and infant care services and other resources.

For more information contact Bonnie Bellah, State Coordinator, OKHMB bonnieb@oica.org

Vision Screening for Infants



Our children are precious to us, and so is their vision. Now, mothers in Oklahoma can find out about their baby's vision through a no-cost public health program developed to provide professional eye care for infants.

InfantSEE® program provides a one-time, comprehensive eye assessment to infants in their first year of life, offering early detection of potential eye and vision problems at no cost regardless of income.

“As parents, we regularly take our children to the dentist to help prevent cavities. Likewise, we should take our babies to the optometrist to help prevent potential eye and vision problems,” said former President Carter, a public supporter of InfantSEE who serves as honorary national chair and spokesman. “Given my family’s experience managing vision problems that were not caught early, I strongly encourage all parents with babies to visit an optometrist for an InfantSEE® assessment during the first year of their child’s life and I applaud AOA for providing parents this opportunity.”

To learn more about InfantSEE® or find a doctor in your area that provides it, call toll-free (888) 396-EYES (3937) or visit www.infantsee.org.

The Oklahoma Association of Optometric Physicians' will be Cox Convention Center March 13, 2010 from 9 AM to 5 PM for the Baby Expo. Stop by their booth to learn more about InfantSEE.



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Oklahoma Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies Coalition
3909 N Classen Blvd. Suite 101, Oklahoma City, OK 73118
405.236.5437 • www.okhmb.com
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