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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**REPORT ON STATUS OF FETAL & INFANT DEATHS IN NORTHEAST FLORIDA TO BE RELEASED,
ANNOUNCEMENT OF FUNDING COLLABORATIVE TO REVIEW ALL DEATHS**

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. – The Northeast Florida Annual Fetal & Infant Mortality Review Community Meeting will be held Oct. 18 at 10 a.m. at the Kids Hope Alliance (1095 A. Philip Randolph Blvd., Jacksonville) to address the state of maternal and child health in the region and announce new collaborative funding of the first full review of fetal and infant deaths in the region. The meeting is hosted by the Northeast Florida Healthy Start Coalition.

Event agenda:

- 10 a.m.: The Northeast Florida Healthy Start Coalition will release the 2017-2018 FIMR findings. Coalition Director of Family Relations Tracy Claveau, RN, BAN, will give the report.
- 10:25 a.m.: Funding announcement from Baptist Health/Wolfson Children’s Hospital, UF Health Jacksonville and Florida Blue to launch a full review of why babies are dying before their first birthday in Baker, Clay, Duval, Nassau and St. Johns counties. Speakers to include:
 - Melanie Patz, vice president, community investment and impact, *Baptist Health*
 - Mark L. Hudak, M.D., chair, department of pediatrics; chief, division of neonatology, *University of Florida College of Medicine – Jacksonville*; associate medical director of the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at Wolfson Children’s Hospital; associate dean for managed care, *UF Health Jacksonville*
 - Darnell Smith, North Florida market president, *Florida Blue*
- 10:35 a.m.: The event will close with speaker Jack Levine of 4Generations Institute, who will make the case for how community-wide investing in prevention pays bountiful dividends.

FIMR aims to reduce infant mortality by gathering and reviewing detailed information to gain a better understanding of fetal and infant deaths in Northeast Florida. The project examines cases with the worst outcomes to identify gaps in maternal and infant services and to promote future improvements. The Coalition began the review in 1995 and has continued to carry it out with funding from the Florida Department of Health to review 28 deaths annually. This funds only a fraction of the 250+ fetal and infant deaths in the region each year.

About the Northeast Florida Healthy Start Coalition

The Healthy Start Coalition leads the community effort to reduce infant death and improve the health of children, childbearing women, fathers and their families in Northeast Florida. For more information, [view our media kit](#) visit us at <http://nefhealthystart.org> or on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram @nefhealthystart.

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