



**DATE:** May 13, 2015

**TO:** Members of the Governor's Interagency Council on Health Disparities

**FROM:** Emma Medicine White Crow, Chair

**SUBJECT: ADVERSE BIRTH OUTCOMES DISPARITIES RECOMMENDATIONS**

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**Background and Summary:**

Infant mortality is a marker of a society's overall health, serving as an indicator of underlying issues like poor access to and quality of healthcare services and health inequity. As such, it is an important indicator in Results Washington, and decreasing disparities in low birthweight for African American and American Indian and Alaska Native babies is one specific objective.

In recognition of the significant and persisting disparities in adverse birth outcomes that exist in the state and out of a desire to align its work with Results Washington, the Governor's Interagency Council on Health Disparities selected adverse birth outcomes as a priority health topic. In selecting it as a priority, the Council hoped to add value to ongoing state efforts to reduce infant mortality by focusing on recommendations for state actions to promote equitable birth outcomes and reduce disparities.

On February 12, 2015, the Council convened an advisory committee to assist with developing its recommendations. Today, I have asked staff to prepare a briefing on the advisory committee's recommendations for consideration by the full Council. I am pleased that three members of the advisory committee, Devon Love from the Center for Multicultural Health, Shelley Means from the Native American Women's Dialogue on Infant Mortality, and Heather Weiher from the Health Care Authority, will join in today's presentation.

**Recommended Council Action:**

After reviewing the draft adverse birth outcomes report and recommendations, the Council may choose to consider, amend if necessary, and adopt the following motion:

*Motion: The Council approves in concept the draft adverse birth outcomes report and recommendations as submitted on May 13, 2015, directs staff to incorporate changes from today's discussion as necessary, and authorizes the chair to approve the final version for inclusion in the Council's June 2015 Update Report.*