



Dear Hospital Administrator,

September is National Infant Mortality Month. To bring focus to the issue of Black infant mortality, our local community will be participating in the annual **Black Infant Mortality Awareness Walk** (BIMAW) on September 18, 2021. Community members are walking to bring awareness to the issue of Black infant mortality. We are all aware of the dismal statistics that surround Black infant mortality. We are inviting local hospitals to please take this time to consider the impact of perinatal health inequities on Black mothers, Black infants, Black families and Black communities. The annual Black Infant Mortality Awareness Walk asks healthcare organizations, community organizations and concerned citizens to consider the following recommendations for eliminating racially-based health disparities:

- Participate in the local walk in some way; invite your staff members to walk, pass out water to walkers, advertise the walk, offer your hospital grounds as a location for the walk, hold a community event or recognition for the walk.
- Analyze your institutional data for mortality, morbidity and near misses and disaggregate all data by race to determine gaps in care for communities of color.
- Prioritize anti-racism training for all clinical staff to decrease the negative impacts of racial bias and examine all institutional policies for racially-based bias.
- Work alongside impacted communities in non-tokenizing ways. Seek partnership rather than mere engagement which involves joint decision-making and power sharing.



- Diversify the ranks of clinical staff so that there is representation of communities served within healthcare and social service facilities and organizations.

For more information about the local walk, please contact nia@uzazivillage.org. For information about BIMAW, see our website at www.uzazivillage.org. Health inequality is an outcome of inequitable health systems. Together we can restore what has been lost to our communities of color. Let us build together.

“If you have come here to help me you are wasting your time, but if you have come because your liberation is bound up with mine, then let us work together.”

— Lilla Watson

Blessings,

Mama Hakima

CEO of Uzazi Village, Kansas City, MO