

A RESOLUTION

Authorizing the Committee on Public Health and Human Services to hold hearings on the need for increased evidenced-based home visiting programs in the City.

WHEREAS, Evidenced-based home visiting is a research proven tool to support the development and safety of our most vulnerable children and families beginning in pregnancy up to 5 years of age; and

WHEREAS, Evidenced-based home visiting programs ensure that mothers and parents have appropriate resources and connections to medical care and other service providers, supporting the integration of a holistic team approach, including child welfare services, healthcare, and other community services; and

WHEREAS, The Pennsylvania Health Care Cost Containment Council found that 549 babies were born with neonatal abstinence syndrome (NAS) in Philadelphia last year, while parental substance abuse was the number one reason for General Protection Service involvement; and

WHEREAS, A report by the Maternity Care Coalition found that 86 percent of pregnancies are unintended among women who abuse opioids, and that every three minutes a woman goes to the emergency room for prescription painkiller misuse or abuse, with the majority of them being of childbearing age; and

WHEREAS, Evidence-based home visiting programs incorporate a number of different approaches to protecting infants and children born with NAS and potentially protecting pregnant women from having a child born with NAS, including education on the negative impact of substance abuse on fetal development and offering information about the special needs of a baby diagnosed with NAS; and

WHEREAS, Nearly 90 percent of the City's families continue to be underserved by evidenced-based home visiting programs, particularly for pregnant women living poverty, on Medicaid, and/or without high school diplomas; and

WHEREAS, 78 percent of children known to Philadelphia's child welfare system are not receiving home visiting services, which has also been proven to reduce the likelihood of future child abuse and neglect; and

WHEREAS, Far too many of Philadelphia's youngest children are at risk, and evidenced-based home visiting programs provide support to parents and others raising children to improve their education, health, safety and economic stability; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA, That the Committee on Public Health and Human Services is authorized to hold hearings on the need for increased evidence-based home visiting programs in the City.

Cindy Bass
Councilwoman—8th District
December 6, 2018