



## News Release

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**  
Friday, April 8, 2011

**Mother & Child Health Coalition presents:**  
**“Healthy Motherhood: A Community Approach to Healthy Babies”**  
**Friday, April 22, 2011**  
8:00 – 11:00 a.m.  
Jack Reardon Convention Center  
500 Minnesota Ave., Kansas City, KS 66101

Mother & Child Health Coalition, (MCHC) a bi-state organization, is pleased to convene a meeting on the topic of, **“Healthy Motherhood: A Community Approach to Healthy Babies”** with special guest speaker, **Tonya Lewis Lee, JD.** Ms. Lee will share her inspiring documentary, **“Crisis in the Crib”** and discussion will center on the community approach to having healthier babies and better outcomes for all our families. Ms. Lee is national spokesperson for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services’ campaign, **“A Healthy Baby Begins with You,”** as well as a national best-selling author, award-winning TV producer, and **wife of filmmaker Spike Lee.**

According to the most recent annual summary published by the National Center for Vital Statistics, (2007) Kansas ranked worst among other states for black infant mortality. As the gap between black and white infant deaths continues to expand, it is time to address this paradox with new approaches. During **April, National Minority Health Awareness Month,** Mother & Child Health Coalition is pleased to host Ms. Lee on her tour of three cities in Kansas (Wichita, Topeka and Kansas City) to raise awareness of what can be done to improve the statistics on birth outcomes for our families, particularly in the African American community.

Ms. Lee's tour is part of a state-wide education campaign sponsored by the Blue Ribbon Panel on Infant Mortality of the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (USDHHS), Office of Minority Health. A **Continental breakfast** will be provided for attendees. There is no charge for the event, but we ask that you **RSVP by April 15** in order that we can provide enough food, at <http://www.mchc.net>. There is also a second event with Ms. Lee in the afternoon, 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. at Kansas City Kansas Community College, 7250 State Ave. 66112.

For questions related to these events, please contact Paul Cesare, MCHC coalition coordinator, at (816) 283-MCHC (6242), ext. 239. You may also visit the Website for more information, at [www.mchc.net](http://www.mchc.net).

### **MCHC Mission:**

Every child deserves a healthy start; it is the best gift a community gives its children and itself. The Mother & Child Health Coalition works together with community partners and families to promote wellness and advocate excellence in health care.

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