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Families First for Mississippi | “May is National Teen Pregnancy Prevention Month”

Jackson, MS (5/17/17)- Hundreds of thousands of teens nationwide are expected to participate in National Teen Pregnancy Prevention Month this May. The purpose of National Teen Pregnancy Prevention Month is to focus the attention of teens on the importance of avoiding too-early pregnancy and parenthood.

Families First for Mississippi is expanding Governor Bryant’s Healthy Teens for a Better Mississippi initiative throughout the state to include educational and innovative programs on healthy choices to engage teens. Families First is working diligently to help combat teen pregnancy which is one of the leading challenges within the state of Mississippi. The vision of the partnership between Families First and Healthy Teens for a Better Mississippi is to help reduce our teen pregnancy rate, provide parents with education and training, motivate teens to set goals and teach teens to choose responsible choices in their everyday lives.

Families First for MS created C.H.A.T. (Choosing Healthy Alternatives for Teens) to engage teens in the conversation surrounding teen pregnancy. The C.H.A.T. program allows teens and parents the opportunity to express their thoughts and feelings concerning the wide variety of challenges they face. The program is peer driven and promotes healthy dialogues while incorporating facts as well as classes for parents to provide support and develop tools for having conversations with their children.

The latest news on the teen pregnancy front has been incredibly positive. Since the early 1990s, teen pregnancy and birth rates in the United States have declined by 55% and 64% respectively and are now at record low levels. In Mississippi, the teen pregnancy rate has declined by 28% from 1988-2010 and the birth rate has declined by 8% from 2011-12 according to the National Conference of State Legislatures. With the continued efforts of Families First for Mississippi and Healthy Teens for a Better Mississippi, the goal is to increase awareness, support healthy choices, and to positively impact the teen pregnancy rates in the state of Mississippi.