



MHN Listening Sessions

Objective, Participants, and Documentation

Listening Session Objective

Confirm and modify existing priorities of the Maternal Health Network to ensure we are addressing the most significant issues within the maternal health system of San Bernardino County.

Areas of Exploration

Strategic Plan: A brief presentation was provided on the MHN Strategic Plan and its priorities, including progress made to date on short-term strategies. Listening Session participants were asked to review the existing strategic plan strategies and weigh in on whether they are still relevant.

	Strategy	Questions for Discussion
Short Term	Support the Perinatal Equity Initiative (PEI) to address maternal health disparities as it relates to our goals.	♥ Are each of these strategies still a priority for the network?
	Work with the criminal justice system to develop a protocol for connecting individuals who are pregnant to care upon release.	♥ Has work to date been sufficient to address the Network's need or is work still required?
	Develop and/or distribute marketing materials and implement a community education campaign to support healthy pregnancy and delivery. Topics to include healthy habits, benefits of breastfeeding, caring for yourself and your baby directly following birth, and maternal mental health	♥ Are there any considerations that we should know to address our work in these areas moving forward?
	Establish proactive screening and education efforts with pregnant families.	♥ What are some potential barriers to utilization of MHN tools and resources developed?
	Increase provider capacity through targeted training to include implicit bias, culturally competent service delivery, and social determinants of health.	
Mid Term	Work with local school districts to connect pregnant teens to services both on and off school sites.	
	Support co-location of services and team approaches to care for families accessing maternal health services.	♥ Are each of these strategies still a priority for the network? If so, should they continue to be ranked as a mid-term/ long-term strategy for implementation?
	Prioritize service expansion in the following areas: Black Infant Health, pre- and inter-conception care, breastfeeding, and behavioral health, midwives and doulas, as well as home visiting that specifically focuses on families who are pregnant.	♥ • Are there any considerations that we should know to address our work in these areas moving forward?
	Ensure the availability of a maternal health helpline that provides resource information and navigational supports.	
	Establish a data collection effort that can be used throughout the Maternal Health Network.	♥ • Are there other issues that have emerged since we adopted these strategies that should be addressed by the Network?
Long Term	Support innovative solutions that expand access to care (telehealth and virtual service provision as well as mobile clinics).	
	Support organizations in using data to drive discussions around issues of equity and quality of care.	



Documentation

Date: December 6, 2022 Time: 9:30 – 10:30 am	Location: IEHP Center for Learning & Innovation 9500 Cleveland Ave., Rancho Cucamonga, CA 92324		
Participants	Rosalinda Nava IEHP	Ryan Berryman San Bernardino Fatherhood	Evan Thomas FAITHS Throughcare
	Ruth Spathias Dignity Health	Dr. Danielle Kilchenstein Inland SoCal United Way	Dr. Sayida Pepra-Wilson Diversity Uplifts
	Pat Spier, Pac/Lac & MHN		

Discussion Summary

Assessment of Existing Efforts and Ongoing Needs

- ♥ The group felt like the Network could move into implementation of mid-term priorities with continued support for short-term strategies.
- ♥ There was a recognition that Leadership needs to take more ownership of strategy implementation. The group noted that because the Leadership Team has primarily been asked to intervene on strategy implementation if a problem is noted that it hasn't been required to pro-actively promote or lead efforts. The group thought this was a lost opportunity.

Areas to Consider Focusing on in the Future

- ♥ **Maternal mental health** is an area that could be a focus for future efforts. The impending maternal health hotline roll-out was identified as an opportunity that could be leveraged.
- ♥ Leveraging momentum that has been established by **recently passed and currently proposed legislation** should be a consideration. Examples offered included the reforms made to Cal Aim, the introduction of the 988 helpline, the requirement for perinatal and postpartum mental health screenings amongst healthcare professionals and training requirement on cultural competency.
- ♥ Developing a **policy agenda** should be a focus for the future.

Other Considerations Offered

- ♥ Group felt like it should be noted that the MHN should no longer consider existing efforts as "something to be established" but rather something to be "strengthened or expanded."
- ♥ It was noted that burn-out and apathy may be an issue that is plaguing providers and that figuring out how to inspire passions amongst MHN members may be important. "Igniting purpose" specific to people's role within the maternal health system may be necessary as opposed to focusing efforts solely on system leaders.
- ♥ Data could be used by the MHN to accelerate all strategy implementation and to initiate action. Opportunities to explore using data included:
 - Developing data driven talking points by sector could be a strategy worth investing in.
 - De-mystifying data and using qualitative as well as quantitative measurements.
 - Fully utilizing social media outlets to disseminate important data points.
- ♥ May want to consider creating fun incentives amongst membership to garner more buy-in and activity amongst members.
- ♥ Whole person assessments to include family health and continuity of care is an area the Network should promote.
- ♥ The issue of wait times to access care is a major issue that continues to plague families.



Date: December 7, 2022 Time: 10:30 – 11:30 am		Location: IEHP Community Resource Center, Community Org Mtg Room 12353 Mariposa Rd., Suites C-2 and C-3, Victorville, CA, 92395		
Participants	Lluvia Barrows Hesperia Health Center	Tonya McCampbell CA Health Collaborative	Vanessa Ramirez CA Health Collaborative	
	Kelly Rocha SBC Public Health	Priscilla Valenzuela-Pabst Diversity Uplifts	Dr. Sayida Pepra-Wilson Diversity Uplifts	
	Pat Spier, Pac/Lac & MHN			
Discussion Summary				
<u>Assessment of Existing Efforts and Ongoing Needs</u>				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♥ Short term strategies were still deemed relevant and important. ♥ There is a continued need to conduct maternal mental health screenings throughout the network. ♥ Group members were not very knowledgeable about the community education bundles or Bright by Text. They offered suggestions on how to use that information in the future. 				
<u>Areas to Consider Focusing on in the Future</u>				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♥ Resource navigational supports was noted as an issue that could be a focus for future efforts. The group felt like families continue to struggle in figuring out what resources are available to them and how to access those services. ♥ Continuity of care was an issue that providers noted was specific to families in the high desert. 				
<u>Other Considerations Offered</u>				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♥ Consider developing a Community Services Subcommittee. The group felt that the MHN really needed to strengthen its membership as it relates to community service providers that are front-line staff working directly with families. In doing so, efforts to activate many areas of the strategic plan may be more effective. ♥ Group felt like in-person gatherings, especially for those in the high desert could be extremely helpful. ♥ Group suggested establishing tools that guide conversations with families could be a useful support for network members (i.e., how to talk about...with families). 				

Date: December 8, 2022 Time: 1:30 – 2:30 pm		Location: First 5 San Bernardino 735 E. Carnegie Drive, Suite #150, San Bernardino, CA, 92408		
Participants	Elizabeth Sneed-Berrie SBC Public Health: BIH/PEI	Deidre Coutsoumpos Sankofa Birth Workers	Hillary Steenson-Ray SBC Children's Network	
	Monique Amis SBC Public Health	Dr. Michael Sequeira SBC Public Health	Dr. Kendra Flores-Carter Cal Baptist University	
	Jeff Langdon Inland Empire Health Ctr	Rene Wilson Diversity Uplifts	Josh Thomas Diversity Uplifts	
	Pat Spier, Pac/Lac & MHN	<i>Additionally, the focus group was host to several Doctoral students from Cal Baptist University.</i>		



Discussion Summary

Assessment of Existing Efforts and Ongoing Needs

- ♥ Short term strategies were still deemed relevant and important. The group noted that even if a strategy has been implemented, it will require a mechanism to maintain and/or monitor ongoing efforts.

Areas to Consider Focusing on in the Future

- ♥ **Coordination amongst medical providers** was an area of significant need identified by the group. The medical community was described as fragmented and short-staffed. The MHN could play a role in coordinating efforts and driving collaboration amongst the medical providers to support implementation of the MHN strategic plan goals and strategies. Other issues identified specific to medical care included:
 - Concerns for the lack of medical providers in the High Desert was raised multiple times. 60% of women who delivered in Barstow did not have prenatal care.
 - Emphasis on involving ERs in our strategies, they are the "safety net" that catches many pregnant individuals without providers.
 - Important to focus on linkage and alignment of care across the county (emphasis on High Desert and Barstow) and lack of primary and prenatal care availability.
- ♥ **Promotion of Prenatal Care** was an area the MHN could focus efforts on in the future based on the number of women who are not accessing it early or often enough. Barriers identified that contribute to this issue include transportation, childcare, no insurance, and fear (there is a high no-show rate and a high rate of people who do not return after their first appointment).
- ♥ **Mapping the current system** was identified as an area that the network could benefit from so that more people understood who is doing what and how. Examples offered included identifying who is doing universal screenings and what tools are they using, as well as what is the mechanism used to provide referrals to families and how do we track disposition. Understanding the variances between providers and systems could be a great way to target future efforts.

Other Considerations Offered

- ♥ The group emphasized the need for the MHN to clarify its role as a network of members as opposed to a mechanism for direct services to families. Group also felt like the MHN really needed to activate its membership and focus on the work being done by members as opposed to doing work directly.
- ♥ The MHN should ensure it is not duplicated work being done by other member organizations (example offered was around community education efforts).
- ♥ A suggestion was made to engage Dr. Haga of West Valley Detentions Center in the work moving forward.
- ♥ It was noted that COVID has had a significant impact on people who are pregnant and was seen as an important barrier to care.
- ♥ The idea of placing social works or community health workers into ERs could be an effective strategy to catching women who are pregnant and not accessing prenatal care.