REACH UP
where there’s a will, we are the way
Addressing Maternal Mortality
National Conference of State Legislatures
Maternal and Child Health Fellows Program
September 9, 2020
MISSION
To advocate for and mobilize resources to help communities achieve equality in healthcare and positive health for families

VISION
To be known as a nationally recognized center of excellence, assisting in creating a community where there is equality in health care and health for all families

MOTTO/SLOGAN
Committed to Research, Education and Advocacy for Healthy Living!
What Sets Us Apart

• Research and evaluation
• Loyalty
• Diverse Staff
• Love of the people we serve (7,000 families)
• Equity and social justice embedded in our work
• Genuine partnerships
Key Questions

1) In your opinion, what policies are needed to better support our efforts to improve maternal health?

2) What creative and innovative methods do we need to address maternal mortality disparities?
Barriers

• Implicit Bias and Inequities in Clinical Care
• Structural and Systemic Racism
• Data Collection and Integrity
• Politics
Success and Rooted Activities

Example:
Advancing Legislation
• HB 1269 (2007)
Black Infant Health Practice Initiative

Governor Charlie Crist Signs HB 1269 in Tampa, July 2, 2007
Upstream and Downstream Activities

- LISTEN TO BLACK WOMEN and acknowledge the Weathering Effect
- Financial support to stay Upstream
- Doula Services
- Federal Healthy Start boots on the ground sites with proven effective infant and maternal mortality clinical outcomes
- Perinatal Quality Collaborative (FL Steering Committee)
- Policies and Procedures That Positively Impact Social Determinants of Health (Healthy Start Reauthorization Act)
- Utilization of Maternal and Infant Mortality Review (MMR) Committees (FL Pregnancy-Associated Mortality Review & Hillsborough County Healthy Start Coalition Fetal Infant Mortality Review)
- Meaningful Male Involvement Networks (GROWTH with Doulas and Dads)
- Community Based Participatory Research

- Remember to always ask: How does this help and how does this hurt?
  - Examine the research
  - Get community input
  - Begin as a pilot, review and adapt as necessary
Supporting Black and Brown Indigenous Birth Workers: Effectively Serving Our Community
Doulas provide a holistic birth experience to county moms both physically and emotionally. Successful outcomes:

- Received 941 agency referrals through community outreach and partner support
- Enrolled 583 pregnant women into services and provided support and resources
- Completed 2104 prenatal and postpartum visits, with access to childbirth education
- Delivered 378 Babies, providing an evidence based holistic approach to labor and delivery.
- Succeeded in a 93% Breastfeeding initiation rate amongst Doula supported moms
  - Higher than state (86%) and County (88.3%)* (2019 Data)
  - No caseload maternal mortality deaths

Source:
Expansion of Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN) Support in High Risk Clinics

- Disease and chronic illness management
- Health risk reduction during pregnancy
- Postpartum care
- Medical self management and coordinated treatment support
- Medical referral and follow-up
- See average of 17-30 patients per day
- As of 8/13/20, 265 clinical care patients seen.

Clinics: Exodus MLK, Exodus 22nd St, Genesis, Premier
More than 3,000 women served annually
Lessons Learned and Considerations for Policymakers

- Listen to Women.
- Social determinants of health (where we live, work, play or worship) influence maternal mortality.
- Implicit Bias contribute to the vast racial disparities in maternal mortality.
- Educate mothers, fathers and families to advocate for themselves specifically in a health care environment.
- Policies and practices can better support community-based efforts to improve maternal health (legislative partnerships).
  - Community-based MCH programs that address social, educational, cultural and political structures
  - Improve data collection and oversight
Adoption of Aspiration

Together, Let’s Make Access to Quality Maternal Care a National Norm!
Thank You

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