

**CROSS-SECTOR COLLABORATIONS TO
ADDRESS MATERNAL MORTALITY
IN LOUISIANA**

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WHERE OUR JOURNEY BEGAN

GOVERNOR'S OFFICE ON WOMEN'S POLICY

- Priority of Governor John Bel Edwards
- Priority of Louisiana Department of Health

[READ THE RESEARCH](#)

HEALTHY MOMS, HEALTHY BABIES ADVISORY COUNCIL

- Act 497 of the 2018 Regular Session
- Rep. Stephanie Hilferty (2019 MCH Fellow) and Sen. Regina Barrow
- Focused on ensuring LA's efforts included an equity focus informed by community
- Made up of legislators, state agencies, providers, doulas, midwives, medical associations, March of Dimes, home visiting, DV advocates, etc.

[LISTENED TO EXPERTS](#)

WHERE COLLABORATION WAS BORN

CALLING ALL SECTORS

- Health Impact Project
- Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and The Pew Charitable Trusts
- Work to create lasting culture and infrastructure change across multiple state agencies and with a non-governmental partner
- Louisiana focus: Maternal Mortality

INITIAL CORE TEAM MEMBERS

- Louisiana Department of Children and Family Services [state]
- Louisiana Department of Health [state]
- Louisiana Housing Corporation [state]
- Governor's Office on Women's Policy [state]
- Children's Cabinet [state]
- Louisiana Partnership for Children and Families [non-profit]

LEARNED TOGETHER AND EXPLORED OPPORTUNITIES

Root causes

Expertise at
the table

Existing
services



WHAT ARE WE DOING

Where are
the gaps

Who are
we missing

Maternal Mortality in Louisiana

Pew's
Calling All
Sectors

Evidence-based
Recommendations

Severe
Maternal
Morbidity

Prevention

Maternal
Mortality

Existing
Efforts

OPPORTUNITIES FOR IMPACT

	PATIENTS AND FAMILIES	PROVIDERS	POLICY
BEFORE PREGNANCY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chronic conditions • Contraception use 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cultural competency • Screening 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social determinants of health
DURING PREGNANCY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Educate on warning signs/risks • Appropriate care 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cultural competency • Early screening for problems 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to risk appropriate care • Non-clinical supports
AT OR AROUND DELIVERY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Educate on warning signs/when to seek help 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safety bundles • Timely and safe referrals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reimbursements for doulas
UP TO ONE YEAR AFTER DELIVERY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure postpartum visit • Note pregnancy history 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training for non-OB providers • Transitions to care 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Non-clinical supports • Postpartum coverage extension

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PATIENTS AND FAMILIES

#BLACKMAMAJOY CAMPAIGN

- Centered on social determinants of health
- Interactive and uplifting Black maternal wellness community conversations

CELEBRATED, EMPOWERED, UPLIFTED,
INFORMED

WARNING SIGNS

- POST-BIRTH Warning Signs (AWHONN)
- HEAR HER Campaign (CDC)

PROVIDED CONSISTENT MESSAGING
THROUGH CLINICAL PROVIDERS

COMMUNITY VOICE

FOCUS GROUP WITH DOULAS AND BIRTHING PERSONS

- In partnership with Healthy Moms, Healthy Babies Advisory Council
- Led to Messaging Tool to help inform provider communication with patients

INFORMED HOW WE DISCUSS THE
ISSUE WITHOUT
INDUCING BLAME OR FEAR

COVID-RELATED NEEDS

- Pivot based on COVID-19
- Provided for needs of quarantined families who were pregnant or postpartum
- The highest need for all clients was cleaning supplies, but for pregnant clients was food

INFORMED EMERGENT NEEDS

POLICY OPTIONS

PREGNANT WORKERS FAIRNESS

- Expansive coalition of partners
- Negotiations with business lobby

ALLOWED LA TO WORK ON
SOLUTIONS OUTSIDE OF THE
CLINICAL SPACE

OTHER POLICIES

- Domestic Abuse Fatality Review Panel

POTENTIAL ADDITIONAL STRATEGIES

- Extended postpartum coverage
- Universally available voluntary home visiting
- Rental protection for COVID evictions
- Reimbursements for doulas



PARTNERS

BEGINNING

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- Louisiana Department of Health [state]
- Louisiana Housing Corporation [state]
- Governor's Office on Women's Policy [state]
- Children's Cabinet [state]
- Louisiana Partnership for Children and Families [non-profit]

PARTNERS

- LA Perinatal Quality Collaborative
- Healthy Moms, Healthy Babies
- Amandla Group
- Volunteers of America Southeast Louisiana
- Institute for Women and Ethnic Studies
- Louisiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence
- March of Dimes
- Office of Public Health, Bureau of Family Health
- A Better Balance
- Louisiana Budget Project
- Power Coalition for Equity and Justice
- American Heart Association
- Medicine Louisiana
- Workplace Justice Project at Loyola Law Clinic
- Agenda for Children
- National Birth Equity Collaborative
- LSU Health Sciences Center
- New Orleans MCH Coalition
- United Way Southeast Louisiana
- Businesses

AND MORE!

