Aligning Health & Human Services to Promote the Health and Wellbeing of Moms & Babies
National Governor’s Association
September 3, 2019
Worldview

Human Rights

Article 25.
(1) Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including food, clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social services.

(2) Motherhood and childhood are entitled to special care and assistance. All children, whether born in or out of wedlock, shall enjoy the same protection.

Reproductive Justice

The human right to maintain personal bodily autonomy, have children, not have children, and parent the children we have in safe and sustainable communities.

- Loretta Ross

• Analyze power systems
• Address intersecting oppressions
• Center the most marginalized
Mission
NBEC creates solutions that optimize Black maternal and infant health through training, policy advocacy, research and community centered collaboration.

Vision
All Black mothers and babies thrive.

Core Values
Leadership  Freedom  Wellness
Black Lives  Sisterhood
birth equity *(noun)*:

1. The assurance of the conditions of optimal births for all people with a willingness to address racial and social inequalities in a sustained effort.

Joia Crear-Perry, MD

*National Birth Equity Collaborative*
Disparities in Maternal Mortality

**Geographic**
Maternal Mortality Rates, 2015

**Racial**
Root Causes

Structural Racism

Class Oppression

Gender Discrimination and Exploitation

Power and Wealth Imbalance

Globalization & Deregulation

Social Determinants of Health

Safe Affordable Housing

Living Wage

Quality Education

Transportation

Availability of Food

Social Connection & Safety

Job Security

Social Safety Net

Globalization & Deregulation

Social Networks

Labor Markets

Housing Policy

E?ucation Systems

TAX Policy

Social Determinants of Health

Psychosocial Stress / Unhealthy Behaviors

Disparity in the Distribution of Disease, Illness, and Wellbeing

Adapted by MPHI from R. Hofrichter, Tackling Health Inequities Through Public Health Practice.
Levels of Racism

Internalized

Interpersonal

Institutional/Structural

Racial bias in pain assessment and treatment recommendations, and false beliefs about biological differences between blacks and whites

Kelly M. Hoffman, Sophie Trawalter, Jordan R. Axel, and M. Norman Oliver

Dismantling Structural Racism, Supporting Black Lives and Achieving Health Equity: Our Role

R. Hardeman, PhD, MPH, Eduardo M. Medina, MD, MPH, and Katly B. Keshimarni, PhD, MPA
## Concurrent Programs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Funded by</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Maternal Mortality Review Committees*</td>
<td>a standard and comprehensive system primarily operating at the state level. MMRCs identify, review, and analyze maternal deaths; disseminate findings; and act on the results.</td>
<td>CDC/HRSA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Perinatal Quality Collaboratives</td>
<td>state or multi-state networks of teams working to improve the quality of care for mothers and babies.</td>
<td>CDC/HRSA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alliance for Innovation in maternal health</td>
<td>a national data-driven maternal safety and quality improvement initiative based on proven implementation approaches to improving maternal safety and outcomes in the U.S.</td>
<td>HRSA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Title V</td>
<td>federal block grant program, a key source of support for promoting and improving the health and well-being of the nation's mothers, children, including children with special needs, and their families.</td>
<td>HHS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Title X</td>
<td>the only federal grant program dedicated solely to providing individuals with comprehensive family planning and related preventive health services.</td>
<td>HHS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community-based programs &amp; Private health institutions</td>
<td></td>
<td>Philanthropy</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Defining Community

Community

1: a unified body of individuals: such as
a: the people with common interests living in a particular area broadly: the area itself, the problems of a large community
b: a group of people with a common characteristic or interest living together within a larger society, a community of retired persons
c: a body of persons of common and especially professional interests scattered through a larger society, the academic community
d: a body of persons or nations having a common history or common social, economic, and political interests, the international community
e: a group linked by a common policy

Community Based Organization

A public or private nonprofit organization that is representative of a community or a significant segment of a community and works to meet needs and improve life for residents. They build grassroots power & equity across society through intersecting issues.

Identifying CBOs

- Created from need
- Start-up culture
- Irregularly funded or social entrepreneurship model
- Focus and programming meets immediate needs of community
Barriers to Engagement

Common Criticisms
• Data sharing
• Discomfort- language, environment, etc.
• Lack of training and leadership pipelines
• Compensation
• Interpersonal and structural racism

Learning from MMRCs
✓ Inclusive Committee recruitment process
✓ Equalizing overrepresentation of provider
X Community votes undervalued
X Recommendations lack perspective and impact

Must create equity to meaningfully engage community voice
Takeaways

Policy
• Ensure quality maternal mortality and morbidity data collection and appropriate resource allocation for prevention of maternal health harms
• Educate policymakers on racial equity
• Expand and ensure access to maternity care and preventive health services

Culture
• Advance health equity by addressing racism within and beyond the health care system
• Language shift to “structural determinants”
• Connect all policy initiatives to lived experience
• Meaningfully engage community in policy and practice changes
Thank you

Visit us at birthequity.org

Carmen Green, MPH
Director

cgreen@birthequity.org

facebook
instagram
twitter@birthequity