

## December SWMPQIC Quarterly Collaborative Meeting Minutes

**2024 MIHEC Meetings** – All meetings are virtual and scheduled from 1pm – 3pm. If you wish to attend you will need to register in order to get the zoom link for the meeting.

- \* February 15, 2024
- \* May 16, 2024
- \* August 15, 2024
- \* November 14, 2024

The Maternal Infant Health Summit will be held in person on June 17 & 18, 2024 at the Lansing Center.

You have the option to submit a proposal for the MIH Summit until January 7, 2024. You will be notified on February 9, 2024, if your proposal was accepted. You can go to MIH Summit Webpage to submit your proposal.

The theme this year is “Advancing Healthy Births: From Stories to Action”. This plan has been released and you can access it on the Division of Maternal & Infant Health website.

### **Public Health Approaches to PSUD**

December 2023 Journal has a special issue regarding, “Maternal & Child Health. It features 21 articles focused on public health approaches to perinatal substance use. It is also sponsored by AMCHP & ASTHO.

### **Congenital Syphilis**

Missed opportunities and inadequate treatment of pregnant people continue to result in vertical transmission of syphilis.

- \* Potential outcomes of syphilis infection during pregnancy include stillbirth, miscarriage, infant death, and maternal & infant morbidity.
- \* Congenital syphilis cases in Michigan have increased 320% since 2017.

### **SWMPQIC Updates**

- \* You can check out our updates at [www.swmpqic.com](http://www.swmpqic.com)
- \* Friday newsletters have been going out, if you would like to receive them please subscribe
- \* The Reducing Your Risk classes have ended but SWMPQIC is looking into a partnership with PSI to allow those in Region 8 to take a similar class and still receive an incentive.
- \* This fiscal year (10/1/23 – 9/3/24) SWMPQIC has received an increase in their funding from MDHHS. We have some great things planned.
  - o Better understanding the needs of the community by doing some listening sessions with birthing persons, hosting an in-person town hall, interviewing local health departments, and diving deep into community health needs assessments and other relevant reports.

- Exploring a quality improvement effort to support pregnant persons with substance use by establishing an referral pathway to the Women's Life Recovery Program at The Haven of Rest Ministries.
  - Build connections with others who support perinatal persons and babies like Tribal Health Centers, Birthing Hospitals and many others.
- \* **Birth & Beyond Class**
- This is a 6 week virtual class that is free and will start on 1/4/2024. It is held once a week on Thursdays from 6p-8p. Please be sure to register for the class.
  - If you attend all six weeks, you can receive gifts such as: car seat, pack n play, diapers and wipes.
  - This class is open to any pregnant person living in Berrien, Cass, St. Joseph, Branch, Calhoun, Kalamazoo or Van Buren counties to participate.

**What would you do with \$50,000 to improve maternal & infant health outcomes?**  
(agencies)

- \* Having a NICU discharge/coordinator educator to help support our families before they leave the hospital.
- \* More representation in Lactation services within NICU
- \* Potential care packages for individual needs (ex. Blood pressure cuff for birthing mom who has hypertension. Connecting individuals with the proper support they need through pregnancy, delivery and through the post-partum period – bundle that with a life coach and how looks when bringing children into the home).
- \* Perinatal resources & education for physicians regarding substance use & misuse, targeting the stigma around that.
- \* The importance of in-home lactation care and supporting mothers bodies getting stronger after delivery with nutrition exercise consultants and pelvic floor rehab.
- \* Public messaging on the importance of prenatal care.
- \* Hospital based doula program building confidence and trust in the healthcare system and bridging to community services.
- \* Training doulas, especially doulas from rural communities spanning from prenatal, birth and postnatal.
- \* Expanding home visits post-partum-providing personal care items for moms as well as diapers & wipes for the babies.
- \* Providers be more trained and provided breastfeeding support.
- \* Providing support/services health education and prevention for individuals who want to become pregnant (why prenatal care is important, information on what the process of pregnancy looks like both from a physical, emotional and a healthcare process looks like)
- \* Doula peer support – 1:1 relationships and connection building to support perinatal parents, including after baby is born to support mom in activities beyond bonding with baby (like laundry, meal preparation, errands, etc.)
- \* Community access to OB's. People cannot always take the time to drive for OB care so that will need to inadequate prenatal care.
- \* Post delivery support and have in home care – nurse or midwife to do well child visits for mom and baby.

- \* Face to face prenatal classes, including the post-delivery window so that it can offer baby yoga and exercise classes for moms and support for breastfeeding.

**Where do you see gaps in services that \$50,000 could improve? (Community members)**

- \* Support is needed for older children – mental health support that is affordable and accessible.
- \* Mental health support for moms by incorporating maternal mental health checks with baby well child visits.
- \* Need for car seat techs – making sure that babies are safe in their car seats.
- \* Getting resources in the hands of families (resources are there, but often not getting to families who need them)

**Advancing Healthy Births Request for Proposal**

- \* SWMPQIC is awarding 7 mini grants in the amount of \$50,000 each to support community-led efforts to improve disparate birthing outcomes and insure healthy births in Region 8.

\* **Eligibility Requirements**

- o Must target people living or working in Region 8
- o Any non-profit, local tribal organization, community-based organization or local/county level agency serving underserved populations affected by disparate birth outcomes is eligible to apply.
- o If awarded, all funds have to be expended by September 30, 2024
- o Members/agencies of the Proposal Review Committee are not eligible for funding

\* **Question:**

- o Can a government agency (school) apply. **YES** they can.

\* **Timeline for the grant**

- o RFP Release Date: 1/1/2024
- o Proposal Submission Deadline: 1/15/2024
- o Awards Announced: 2/1/2024
- o Grant Period Begins: 3/1/2024
- o 30 min midpoint Check-in meeting: 6/30/2024
- o End of Grant Period: 9/30/2024
- o Progress Report Due: 10/15/2024

\* **What the proposal application should include**

- o Organization information (Organization name, address, project title, IRS W9 etc.)
- o Project narrative (limit 2 pages)
  - Identify population served, why they are of interest to your organization, counties affected
  - Describe what will occur if awarded the grant
  - Share barriers or challenges the project could face
  - Describe how the project will address disparate outcomes and or improve healthy births in the region

- Include the goals/expected outcomes on how success of the project will be measured
    - Share the resources or processes already in place that the funds would enhance
  - Budget with budget narrative (a template will be provided)
- \* **Question:**
  - Is there a plan for 1 county to receive 1 grant, or can a larger county have more than 1 organization apply?
  - We are keeping in mind that we want to help all the counties, but that does not mean that if someone applies for a larger county that, that will be the only one that will be awarded in that county. We ultimately would like to serve the entire region if we can.
- \* **Question:**
  - With the short timeframe, the actual number of births is limited do you have any other suggested measures?
  - Yes, it depends on what your specific grant will do. Do you not need to necessarily look at the outcome of healthy births. So, if you want to expand the peer-to-peer doula program you could look at how many people were connected to a doula or how many times someone was able to see a doula. You could also look at prenatal visits. If you have any questions during the proposal application, like potential measures, please feel free to reach out to Alaina.
- \* **Question**
  - Is this a one-time grant? YES, this is a one-time grant.
- \* **Process for submitting the proposal application**
  - Anyone who wants to be considered for the mini grant will have to submit an application to [adequain@mphi.org](mailto:adequain@mphi.org) by 5PM on Monday, January 15, 2024.
  - Applications that meet all the eligibility requirements will be evaluated and rated by a Review Committee appointed by SWMPQIC Leadership.
  - The Review Committee will use a scoring matrix method for determining awardees. Proposals with the highest scores will receive the highest consideration for funding.
- \* **Unallowable Costs**
  - Capital expenditures such as building or land purchase or construction
  - Advertising unless those that are solely for program outreach and specific purposes necessary to meet goals of the project
  - Alcoholic beverages
  - Entertainment except where they have a programmatic purpose
  - Fundraising activities
  - Goods or services for personal use
  - Lobbying activities

\* **Question**

- Where will this information be posted?
- It will be on the website [www.swmpqic.com](http://www.swmpqic.com), and will be sent via email and our newsletters on 1/1/2024.

**Birthing Hospital Check in**

\* **Beacon Health Three Rivers**

- We only have one office, and we are trying to adjust to that influx as we are seeing a lot of the Coldwater fall out. Lagrange IN also closed we are getting patients from over the boarder as well. We are doing well with MIAIM.

\* **Borgess**

- We are in our rebuilding phase. We have been able to reach out to the community and staying involved with our patients.

\* **Oaklawn**

- Oaklawn Hospital will no longer be accepting Meridian insurance. We are still negotiating with Meridian but asking our patients to change the Medicaid insurance prior to 01/01/2024. We are preparing for the Sepsis MIAIM bundle pack. We did receive a \$1000.00 grant from SWMPQIC and will be handing out the "Your Pregnancy & Childbirth" books to the people who want them. I will be able to go through the books with them 1 on 1. I will get them hooked up with what they need during their pregnancies.

\* **Corewell Health**

- We are looking to bring a home visiting program in, in late 2024 to 2025. We are expanding with a center for better health in Benton Harbor, MI. We are moving into 24,000 square feet of space in February 2024. We will continue to offer support to our community.

\* **Bronson Methodist**

- We have opened Baby Café in Calhoun County and have partnered with Milk Like Mine. We are looking at a second site in Calhoun County at the Burma Center. We well be looking at opening a Baby Café site in Kalamazoo County and will partner with Rootead in 2024. We continue with our MIAIM work at both facilities and plan to continue doing that in 2024. We have our peer navigator working with mothers of substance abuse. We continue in our Baby Friendly journey and will hopefully complete that in early 2024. We have the same problem with Meridian. Bronson has entered into an agreement with Meridian Insurance, and we will be accepting that insurance in 2024. Bronson Battle Creek is looking at putting in natural birthing suites. This will offer a home style birthing process. Our goal is to have that up and running in 2024.

\* **Question**

- Will Borgess take Meridien
- As of now, no but we are still negotiating.