

Women's Health Council November 13, 2019
Racial Inequities in Maternal Health Outcomes
Suggested Strategies from Small Group Discussions

Institutional:

Educate all providers caring for pregnant families; mandatory training on implicit bias including hearing that women of color are afraid of dying in childbirth or postpartum.

Educate providers to explain options to women and help them work through the impacts of each before deciding.

Evaluate current bottlenecks and create delivery options to make all components of women's care more accessible to all members of the community.

Consider shared medical appointments for maternal patients as a support to the patients.

Educate providers to ask maternal patients the following questions to put patient at ease and to respond with active listening:

- How can I support you?
- What will make you comfortable?
- How can I be part of your team?
- What are your goals for this experience?
- Incorporate services to focus on non-gestational care givers; when there is a maternal death, the other parent, and children, are left and need support.

Frame the issues and develop solutions from a Racial Justice perspective.

Community Organization

Develop community outreach programs to help the population self-advocate, ask questions, become trained, provide peer support within the community.
The workforce includes all levels of providers in all settings from the hospital to the community.

Help women of color to speak up to overcome the trepidation because it is scary and difficult and they don't know how they will be treated.

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Community Organization/Institutional/Policy

Provide sustainable funding for doula training and payment for services in communities most impacted by mortality/morbidity.

Demand broad representation on Maternal Mortality Review Committee to include family medicine/internal medicine, OBGYN, midwives, doulas, etc from all areas of the State.

Build the black and brown workforce in health care so it represents the diversity of the community, in maternal health as well as other areas.

Pay for community outreach workers to educate on childbirth education issues, and other health care areas.

Frame the issues and develop solutions from a Racial Justice perspective. (Racial Equity Institute)

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