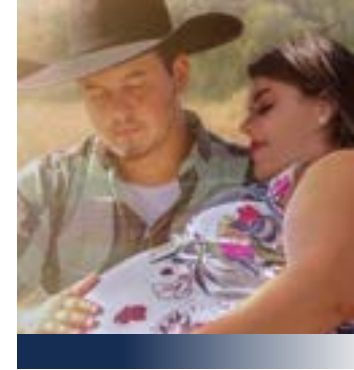
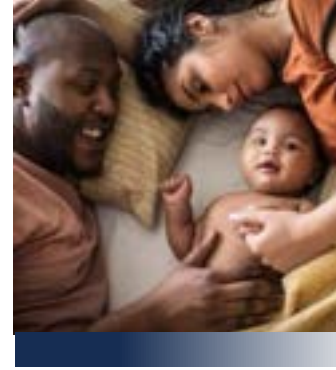
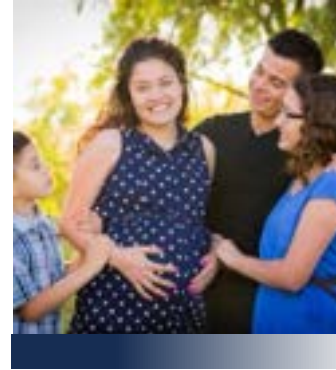
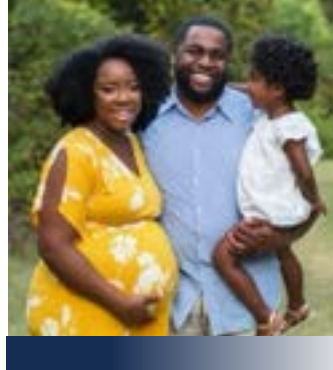
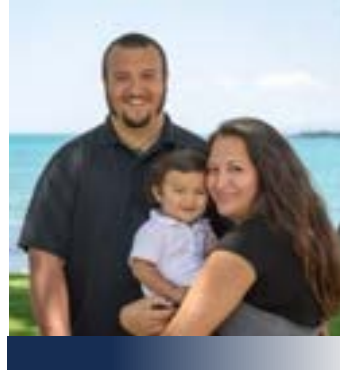
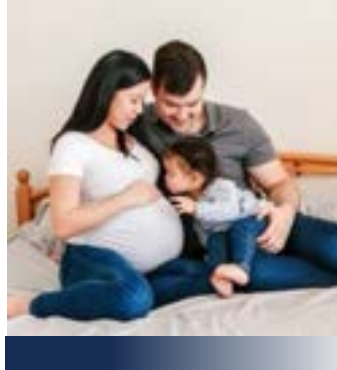


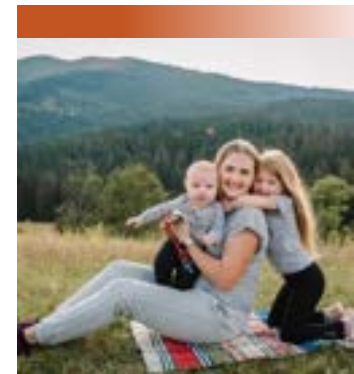
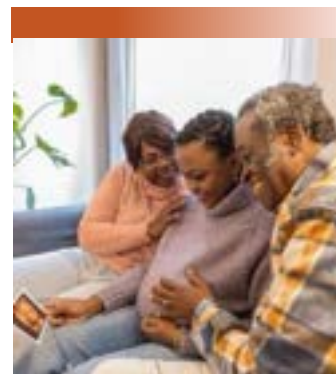
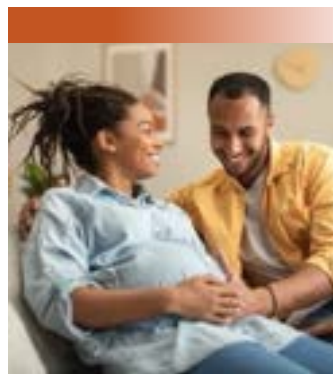
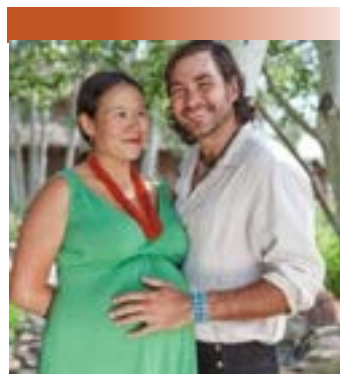
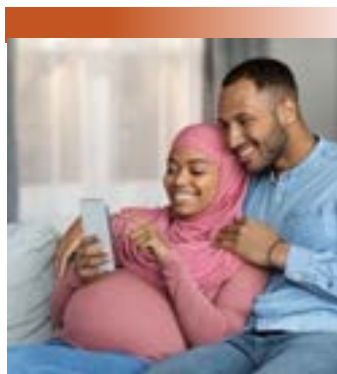


CA Maternal Health Task Force: Public Meeting

February 11, 2026

11:30 am PST

Virtual Meeting



Zoom Poll

Let's get an idea of who is joining us today.

Speakers



Susan Pérez
PhD, MPH

CMQCC
Consultant



Karen Ramstrom
DO, MSPH

CA Dept of Public Health
Branch Chief, Maternal and
Infant Health, MCAH Division



David Lugo

MOMS Orange County
Chief Executive Officer



Shené Bowie-Hussey
DrPH, MPH, ACSM

Leap For Joy Foundation
Founder & CEO

Subcommittee Chairs

SUBCOMMITTEE 1

Ajira Darch

Cristina Gamboa

SUBCOMMITTEE 2

Sarah Kilpatrick

Colleen Townsend

SUBCOMMITTEE 3

Brenda Jones

DJ Singh

SUBCOMMITTEE 4

Chris Krawczyk

SUBCOMMITTEE 5

Curtis Chan

Karen Mark

Steering Committee



Curtis Chan, MD, MPH

California Conference of Local Health Officers (CCLHO) Co-Chair,
Maternal Child & Adolescent Health Committee
Deputy Health Officer, San Mateo County Health



Karen Ramstrom, DO, MSPH

Branch Chief, Maternal & Infant Health
MCAH Division, CA Dept of Public Health



Mashariki Kudumu, MPH

Founder,
Kudumu Partnerships for Equity and Justice



Jeffrey Gould, MD, MPH

Senior Advisor, CMQCC/CPQCC



Ajira Darch

Job PosCreative, Liberation Strategist, Full Spectrum Birthworker
Executive Director, Roots of Labor Birth Collective
Podcast Co-Host, Doula Stories
Founder, Bay Area Bodymilk Cooperative



Cristina Gamboa, MD

OBGYN and Director, Ambulatory Women's
Health Services Salud Para La Gente



**Brenda Jones, DHSc, LSSGB,
CCHC, WHNP, CPPS, RN**

NCAL Regional Senior Director of Maternal and
Child Health, Kaiser Permanente



Antoinette Medina, MPA

Program Coordinator, California
Tribal Epidemiology Center



Leslie Kowalewski

Executive Director of Maternal, Child and
Family Health, CMQCC/CPQCC and PRC



**Diana Ramos, MD, MPH,
MBA, FACOG**

California Surgeon General,
Office of the California Surgeon General



Palav Babaria, MD

Chief Quality Officer and Deputy Director of Quality
and Population Health Management, California
Department of Health Care Services

Administrative Team



Shené Bowie-Hussey,
Dr.PH, MPH, ACSM
Founder & CEO
Lead For Joy Foundation



Melinda Hing
Research Coordinator
CMQCC



Sara Johnson, MD
OB/Gyn
La Clinica de la Raza



Leslie Kowalewski
Executive Director of Maternal, Child and
Family Health, CPQCC/CMQCC



Susan Perez, PhD, MPH
Consultant
CMQCC



Karen Ramstrom, DO, MSPH
Branch Chief, Maternal & Infant Health
MCAH Division, CA Dept of Public Health



Brynn Rubenstein, MPH
Consultant
CMQCC



Lucy VanOtterloo, PhD, RNC, CNS
Faculty
CSU Long Beach





Welcome & Agenda Review

Susan L. Perez

Objectives

1. To share the journey of the California Maternal Health Task Force from where we've been (the challenges and celebrations), where we are today (transitioning from planning to action), and how we got here (values, mission, partnerships, and collective impact).
2. To outline our approach to evaluation and demonstrate accountability to our communities.
3. To demonstrate action through the subcommittee goals and action plans.
4. To highlight how the California Maternal Health Task Force engages, collaborates, and partners with community organizations, birth workers, public health, health care, and social services.

Agenda Review



How We Got Here



Community Innovation Awards



Subcommittee Updates



Evaluation



What's Next



Questions and Answers



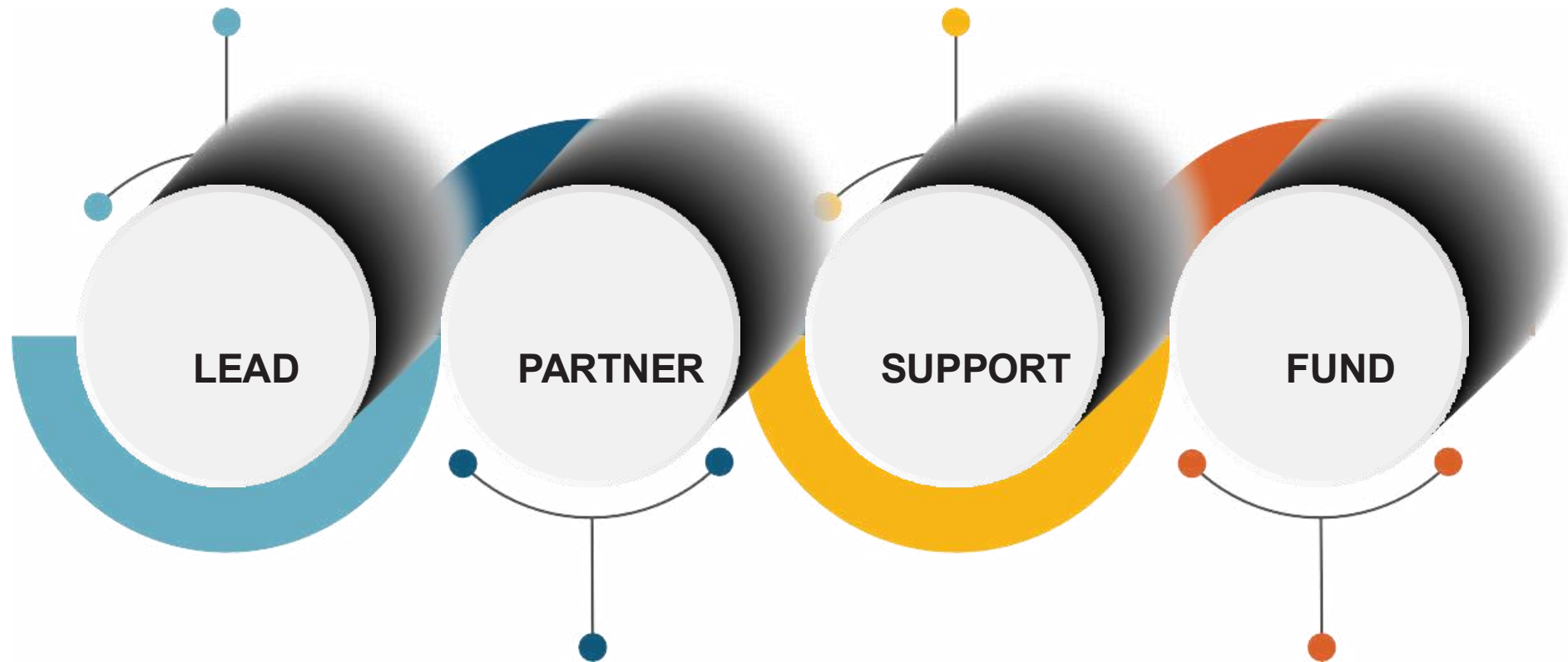
How We Got Here

Karen Ramstrom

Purpose & Funding Acknowledgement

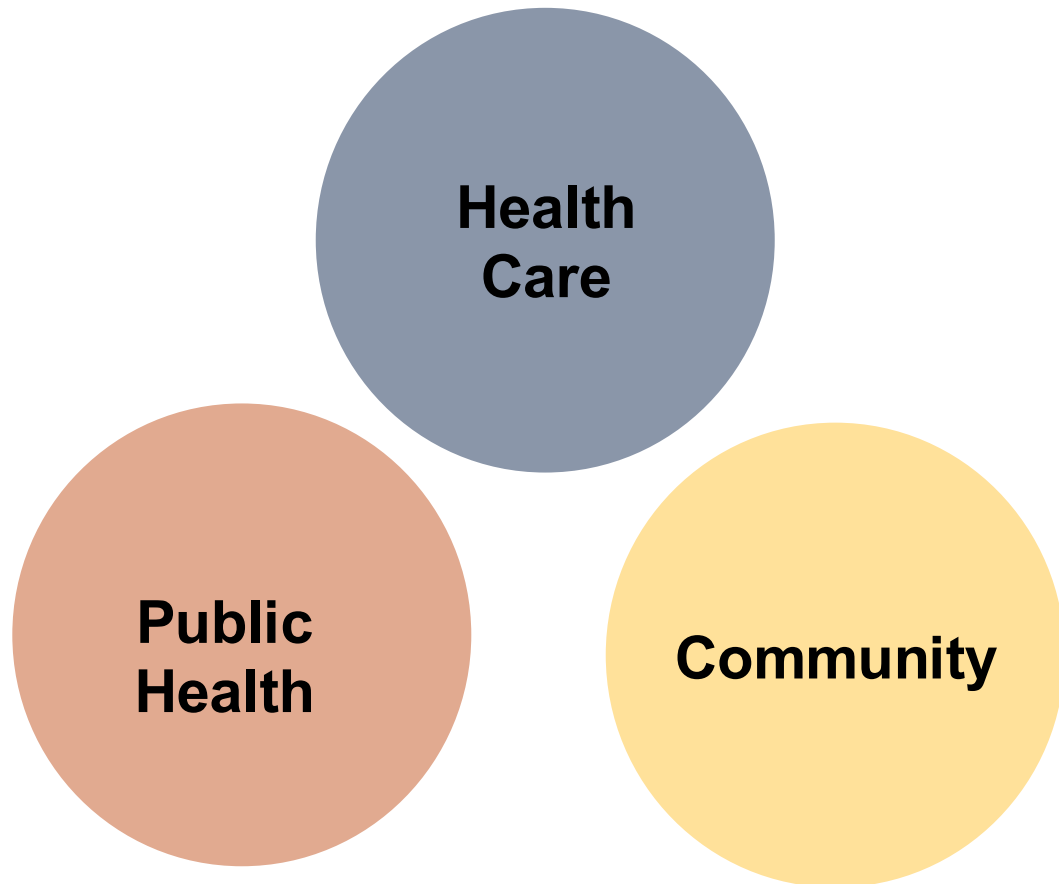
- This cooperative agreement is supported by the U.S. Health Resources & Services Administration (HRSA) through a five-year, \$10 million State MHI award to the California Maternal Quality Care Collaborative (CMQCC), California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS), California Department of Public Health (CDPH), and Office of the California Surgeon General (OSG).
- We extend our deepest gratitude to our generous funder for their transformative support.
- This game-changing investment empowers California to help reduce maternal mortality and morbidity, unite maternal health efforts, and elevate impact to improve maternal health outcomes through improved coordination of existing systems.
- Thanks to this funding, the state will be equipped to enhance community, public health, and health care coordination and quality of maternal health services across California.

Role of California Maternal Health Innovation

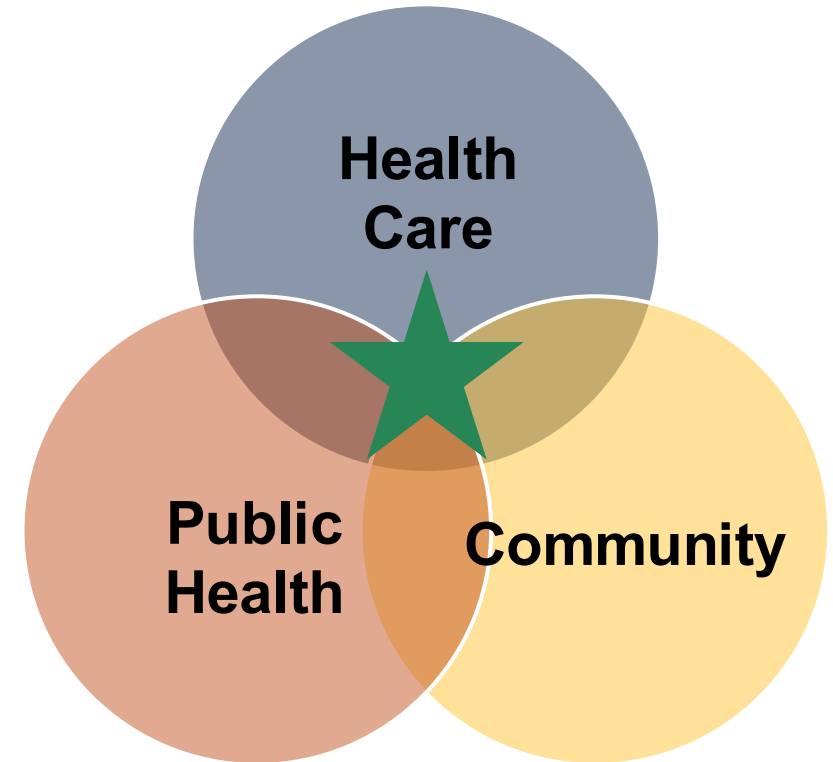


Vision for Maternity Care in California

Current State



Goal



Our WHY, HOW & WHAT



All mothers and babies are thriving at 1 year postpartum



A statewide task force focused on systems integration to better coordinate public health, health care, and community systems to improve maternal health via a collective impact approach.



Improved Care Experience (Patients & Providers)
Improved Access & Links to Risk Appropriate Care
Improved Universal Risk Assessment (Medical, Behavioral & Social) & Appropriate Follow-up
Improved Data & Data Transparency
Breaking Down Silos & Improved Integrating Systems

The California Maternal Health Innovation Goal

Establish and sustain a statewide task force focused on systems integration to coordinate public health, healthcare and community systems to reduce and prevent maternal mortality and morbidity.



Our Journey So Far...

FALL 2023
Notice of
Award

SPRING 2024
First Steering
Committee Meeting

FALL 2024
Finalize Needs
Assessment

WINTER 2023-24
Call for Steering
Committee
Members



SUMMER 2024
Develop Needs
Assessment

WINTER 2024-25
Develop
Strategic Plan

Our Journey So Far...

SPRING 2025

Maternal Health Task Force Subcommittee Co-Chairs Established

In-Person Planning Meeting of Co-Chairs and Steering Committee

FALL 2025

Launch and funded first round of Community Innovation Funds

Strategic Plan Finalized and Submitted to HRSA

Website Launched

SUMMER 2025

First Public Meeting Webinar
Launching Project (June 27th, 2025)

Strategic Plan Posted for Public
Feedback

WINTER 2025-26

Strategic Plan Approved by HRSA (December 2025)

Subcommittees membership recruitment and
monthly meetings initiated
Launch and funded second round of Community
Innovation Funds





Community Innovation Funds: Cohort 1

Susan Perez

Completed: Cohort 1 Doula Enhancement Awards





Cohort 1: Geographic Reach





Cohort 1: Successes

Funding enabled awardees to:

- Eased the financial burden of organizing training workshops and community events. This enabled awardees to train new doulas and ultimately enhance services.
- Provided the opportunity for organizations to expand their services or collaborations to better serve their communities, address the needs of clients, and navigate the complexities of the health care system.

Evaluation consisted of a series of conversations with awardees.

What We Learned

SUCCESSES

Doula Workforce

Successfully trained new doulas that serve Medi-Cal birthing communities across the state.

Enhanced Connections

Fostered connections to create a more interconnected support network for doulas and the families they serve.

Hosted Trainings

Hosted trainings on identified areas of critical need for ensuring that doulas can effectively serve clients.

Key Highlights

CHALLENGES

Navigating Billing

Need for better clarity and education on billing processes.

Providing Comprehensive Care

Importance and need for care that not only supports physical health but also addresses mental and emotional well-being.

Burnout

High levels of burnout and the need for self-care, support, and a sustainable workload.



“Thank you for your efforts to center people in this process. To actively work against systematic barriers and really try to learn and listen from communities about what communities need. It's so refreshing and gives me so much hope in a heavy and, you know, what feels like a hopeless time in the world that we're navigating these days. So, I'm grateful for this opportunity, and I do feel, hopeful that this won't be our last conversation, and I hope that, this is a relationship that stays intact and builds over time.”

- ***Danielle Anderson-Reed, Aunties On The River (Humboldt County)***

Aunties On The River is a collective of
Native Aunties who tend to birthing
families throughout their parenting
journeys.



Community Innovation Funds: Cohort 2

David Lugo



GOALS: Community Embedded Birth Worker

**STRENGTHEN
BUSINESS
CAPACITY**

**SHARE BEST
PRACTICES
FOR BIRTH
SERVICES**

**ENABLE PEER
TRAINING**

**INCREASE
ACCESS TO
BIRTH
SERVICES**

**PRIORITIZE
KEY PATIENT
POPULATIONS**

**SUSTAIN
EXISTING
ORGANIZATIONS**

Congratulations

Cohort 2: Awardees



These organizations stood out because they are:

- Embedded within their community
- Have existing strategic partnerships that they actively invest in
- Experts in their community's maternal health needs to identify sustainable business models or community best practices
- Strategically positioned to identify, advocate, and uplift the needs of patient populations that are more likely to experience negative maternal health outcomes in their local communities



Cohort 2: Geographic Depth



Awardee Spotlight: Organization Background



“We are a trusted community hub providing perinatal, postpartum, and early childhood support. Our doulas and CHWs are recruited from the communities we serve.”

Raíces y Cariño



Ventures

Award activities will center on families and populations that are likely to experience negative health outcomes because of unmet health-related social needs.



“We are a nonprofit coalition of public and private health leaders committed to advancing systems improvement, quality, relationships, and equitable access to care. We convene health, public health, and community partners across Santa Cruz County and beyond.”

Health Improvement Partnership of Santa Cruz County

Team Project: Strengthening & Expanding Community Workforce Capacity

Operational Infrastructure

Strengthen operational infrastructure to sustain a community-embedded doula hub.



Expand High-Quality, Respectful, and Trauma-Informed Care

Expand a doula workforce that possesses significant knowledge of the local community's health history and all health-related social needs.



Workforce Sustainability

Support compensation and retention of community-embedded doulas.



Coordination of Services and Partners

Strengthen care coordination and increase client access through partnerships.



Best Practices

Promote shared learning and best practices.



Project Goal

Stabilize and expand a community-embedded doula hub in Watsonville that serves families that are more likely to experience negative maternal health outcomes in Santa Cruz County.

Through strengthened operations, workforce expansion, and cross-sector collaboration, this project will increase access to high-quality, trauma-informed, and respectful birth care for Medi-Cal members and other populations with high rates of negative maternal health outcomes.





Subcommittee Updates

Susan Perez & Subcommittee Chairs

Engage With Us!



As the co-chairs are presenting and throughout this webinar, please use the Zoom poll to respond to our engagement questions.



Uplift and share existing activities, programs, work, that can be scaled up, in alignment with what is being shared. Include your contact information, so we can connect.



If you have a question or comment is for a specific co-chair or subcommittee, please use the Q&A.

Strategic Priorities & Subcommittee Focuses

Each subcommittee has identified key strategies and activities which will be discussed on the next slides.

Care Experience



Increase Access & Links to Risk-Appropriate Care



Universal Risk Assessment (Medical/Behavioral/ Social) & Appropriate Follow-Up



Data & Data Transparency



Breaking Down Silos & Integrating Systems





Subcommittee 1: Care Experience

Roster

Name	Role, Organization
Ajira Darch (Co-Chair)	Community Birth Doula, Executive Director Roots of Labor
Cristina Gamboa (Co-Chair)	OB/GYN, Dir of Women's Health, Salud Para La Gente (FQHC), Board Member – Every Mother Counts
DeAngelo Mack	Health Alliance for Violence Intervention (HAVI)
Nkem Ndefo	Founder, Lumos Transforms
Mashariki Kudumu	Kudumu Partnerships for Equity and Justice
Kim Gregory	Professor and Director, Maternal Fetal Medicine, Cedars Sinai
Aline Armstrong	Director of Maternal, Child, Adolescent Health, San Francisco Department of Public Health
Mikah Owen	UCAN Co-Principal Investigator and Assistant Professor of Pediatrics, UC Davis
Jessica Walker	Maternal Mental Health Advocate Co-Founder and Director of Operations, Be Mom Aware
Kairis Chiaji	Community Birth Doula, Doula in Heels
Ameerah Thomas	Sutter Health, Oakland
Monalisa Orduno	Birth Doula, Porterville, CA
Alli Cuentos	Birth & Full Spectrum Doula, Barewithme Doula Group
Tracy Osterday	Health & Human Services Agency, Shasta County HHSA



Subcommittee 1: *Care Experience*

Goal: System accountability for high-quality care for pregnant and postpartum women and infants.

STRATEGIES

Change the culture of care **by holding systems and staff accountable to trauma informed care**

Enhance measurement and reporting patient reported experiences

Establish a **systemwide approach for closed-loop feedback accountability** for patient care experiences

What are strategies, lessons, or examples you use or are aware of for trauma informed care when communicating risk for receptivity and action?

What are actions we can take to close feedback loops on patient reported experiences and feedback?



Subcommittee 2: *Increase Access & Links to Risk Appropriate Care*

Roster

Name	Role/Organization
Sarah Kilpatrick (Co-Chair)	OB/Gyn, Maternal Fetal Medicine, Cedars-Sinai
Colleen Townsend (Co-Chair)	Family Medicine specialist
Chelsea Driscoll	Chief of Public Policy and Prevention, CDPH
Lucy Van Otterloo	Regional Perinatal Programs of California – Orange/San Diego Counties Professor, Cal State Univ, Long Beach School of Nursing
Anastasia Coutinho	Department of Healthcare Services
Andrea Ferroni	Licensed midwife; Coordinator, Regional Perinatal Program of California (RPPC)
Juan Gonzalez Velez	Professor, UCSF, OB/Gyn, Reproductive Sciences
Kirsten Barlow	Vice President, Public Policy, California Hospital Association
John McHugh	OB/Gyn, Chair, District IX, ACOG
Monique Amis	President, CDPH California Maternal Child and Adolescent Health Directors (MCAH)
Jeffrey Gould	Professor, Stanford Dept. of Pediatrics, Neonatology
Patrick St. Julian	County of Los Angeles Department of Public Health
Jacqueline Wren	Administrative Analyst, UCSF OB/Gyn and Reproductive Sciences
Leslie Kowalewski	Executive Director, CPQCC/CMQCC
Deirdre Lyell	Professor, Stanford Dept. of OB/Gyn, Maternal Fetal Medicine; Chair and Principal Investigator, CMQCC
Melissa Franklin	Director, Division of Maternal, Child, & Adolescent Health; Health Promotion Bureau; Los Angeles County Dept of Public Health
Charisse Feldman	Public Health Nurse Manager II / Maternal Child and Adolescent Health Director; Santa Clara County Public Health Dept



Subcommittee 2: *Increase Access & Links to Risk Appropriate Care*

Goal: Increase Access & Links to Risk Appropriate Care

STRATEGIES

Establish Maternal Levels of Care in CA
Launch the OB Comorbidity (OB CMI) Index
Analyze Maternity Service Closures to Identify Solutions

What are your perceptions of maternal levels of care?

What do communities and patients who have recently experienced a maternity service closure need?



Subcommittee 3: *Universal Risk Assessment (Medical/Behavioral/Social) & Appropriate Follow-Up*

Roster

Name	Role/Organization
Brenda Jones (Co-Chair)	NCAL Regional Senior Director of Maternal and Child Health, Kaiser Permanente
DJ Singh (Co-Chair)	ACOG California Co-Chair Patient Safety Quality Improvement
Melissa Marshall	Chief Medical Officer, California Primary Care Association
Erika Roshanvaran	Family Medicine physician
Cathy Tillman	Trinity County Health & Human Services
Anastasia Coutinho	Medical Consultant, DHCS
Nicole Evans	Director Medi-Cal Maternal, Infant, and Child Health, Blue Shield
Colleen Townsend	Family Medicine Physician
Lucy Van Otterloo	Associate Professor, California State University, Long Beach, School of Nursing
Brynn Rubinstein	Consultant, CMQCC
Karen Ramstrom	Chief Maternal & Infant Health Branch Maternal, Child and Adolescent Health Division
Lisa Schalk	Nurse Consultant, Perinatal Services MCAH Division/CDPH
Erin Saleeby	Chair, Obstetrics & Gynecology at Harbor UCLA Medical Center Director- Women's Health Programs & Innovation, Los Angeles County Department of Health Services
Nuriya Robinson	MAMA's Medical Director, Los Angeles County Department of Health Services OB/GYN Vice-Chair Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Chief, Birth Equity, Harbor-UCLA Medical Center
Susan Whalen	Maternal Child and Adolescent Health Coordinator, Marin County Health and Human Services
Leslie Kowalewski	Executive Director, CMQCC
Manasa Patna Kavasery	Director of Quality Improvement, Clinical Lead, Ambulatory MFI OB/Gyn, Harbor-UCLA
Sara Johnson	OB/Gyn, La Clinica de la Raza
Sarah Vallencourt	Quality Improvement Clinical Lead, CMQCC



Subcommittee 3: *Universal Risk Assessment (Medical/Behavioral/Social) & Appropriate Follow-Up*

Goal: Improve Risk Assessment and Transitions of Care for Pregnant & Postpartum Women

STRATEGIES

Launch the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) Transitional Care Service Policy (TCS)
Standardize Postpartum Discharge from Hospital
Standardize Prenatal Risk Assessment and Referral

What do you see working well in the field when it comes to perinatal risk assessment?

What barriers prevent timely identification of risk and connection to appropriate follow-up care?



Subcommittee 4: *Data & Data Transparency*

Roster

Name	Role/Organization
Chris Krawczyk (Chair)	Chief Analytics Officer, Department of Health Care Access and Information
Michele Cheung	Maternal , Child, and Adolescent Health (MCAH) Medical Director, Community and Nursing Services Division
Priya Batra	Deputy Director, Los Angeles Department of Public Health
Bryan Oshiro	OB/Gyn, Riverside University Health System
Andrea Cantarero	Epidemiologist, CDC Foundation
David Reynen	Research Scientist Supervisor, Chief of Epidemiology, Surveillance, and Federal Funding, California Department of Public Health
Timi Leslie	Founder and President, BluePath Health
Jochen Profit	Professor, Stanford Dept. of Pediatrics; Chair and Principal Investigator, CPQCC
Leslie Kowalewski	Executive Director, CPQCC/CMQCC



Subcommittee 4: *Data & Data Transparency*

Goal: Support Data Interoperability Across Health Care & Public Health Systems

STRATEGIES

Map data along the birthing care pathway to identify what is being currently collected and what is publicly available.

Collect and Share Pregnant and Postpartum Women's Reported Birth Experiences

Strengthen California's Existing Data Frameworks & Platforms

What data do you currently have access to that you find most useful?

What data do you need to inform your work that you don't have access to?



Subcommittee 5: *Breaking Down Silos & Integrating Systems*

Roster

Name	Role/Organization
Curtis Chan (Co-Chair)	Public Health Officer, San Mateo County
Karen Mark (Co-Chair)	Medical Director, California Department of Health Care Services
Karen Ramstrom	Chief, Maternal Infant Health Branch, Center for Family Health, CDPH
Leslie Kowalewski	Executive Director, CPQCC/CMQCC
Carmen Lee	Postdoctoral Scholar, Pediatrics (Neonatology), Stanford University School of Medicine
Shené Bowie-Hussey	Assistant Clinical Professor, School of Public Health – Loma Linda University
Paula Talliant	Perinatal Services Coordinator, Shasta County Public Health Department
Monique Amis	Chief of Community and Family Health; Interim Director, San Bernardino County



Subcommittee 5: *Breaking Down Silos & Integrating Systems*

Goal: Enable collaboration among organizations supporting pregnant and postpartum women.

STRATEGIES

Identify and promote a **systems framework** to guide the work for the Maternal Health Task Force
Institutionalize a process for identifying **shared maternal health priorities among state agencies**
Memorialize and share **best practices and learnings** from the Maternal Health Task Force

What are examples of coordination between public health, healthcare, and community that have been successful?

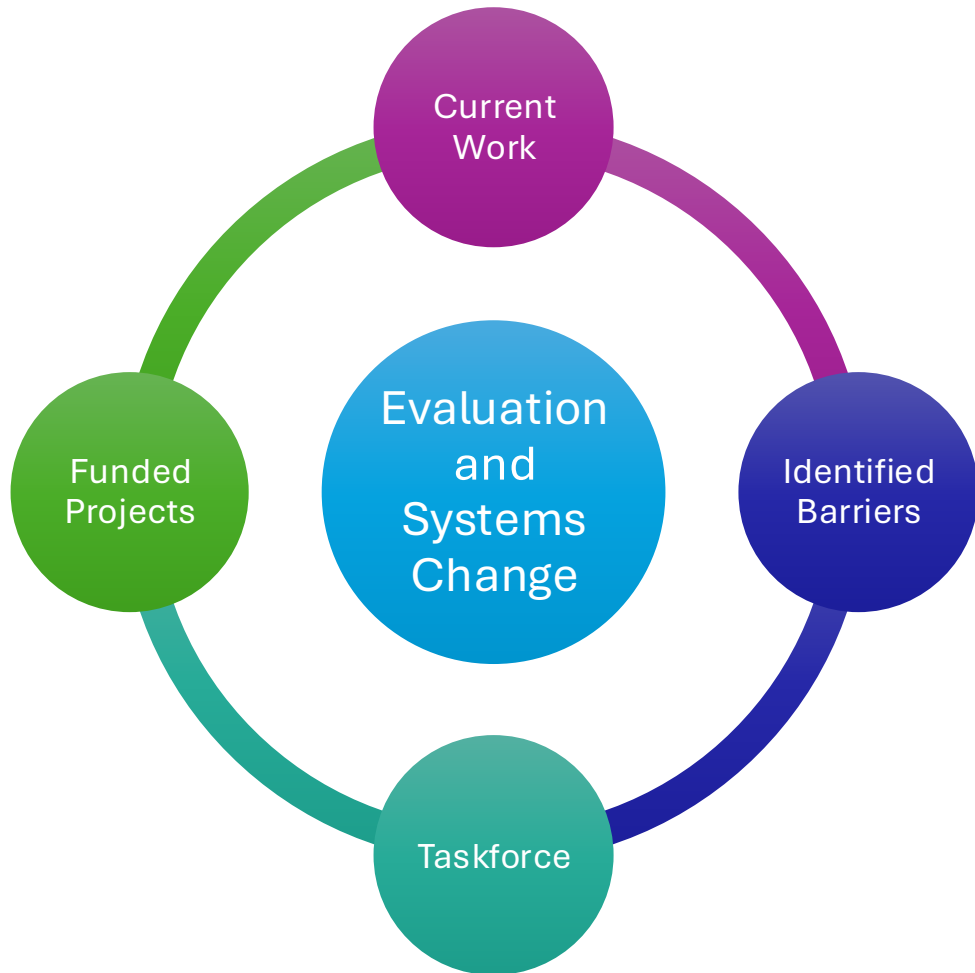


Evaluation

Shené Bowie-Hussey, DrPH, MPH, ACSM

CA Maternal Health Initiative: Considerations for the Systems Change and Evaluation Approach

- Identified Assets/Current Work
- Identified Barriers
- Initiative Goals
- Taskforce Work
- Innovation Funding



Kotter's 8-Step Process to System's/Organizational Change



THE 4 PRINCIPLES

SELECT FEW + DIVERSE MANY

More people need to be able to make change happen—not just carry out someone else's directives. Done right, this uncovers leaders at all levels of an organization; ones you never knew you had.



HAVE TO + WANT TO

Those who feel included in a meaningful opportunity will help create change in addition to their normal responsibilities. Existing team members can provide the energy if you invite them.



HEAD + HEART

Most people aren't inspired by logic alone, but rather by the fundamental desire to contribute to a larger cause. If you can give greater meaning and purpose to your effort, extraordinary results are possible.



MANAGEMENT + LEADERSHIP

In order to capitalize on windows of opportunity, leadership must be paramount—and not just from one executive. It's about vision, action, innovation, and celebration, as well as essential managerial processes.



Results-Based Accountability



Set Clear Results



Identify Performance Measures



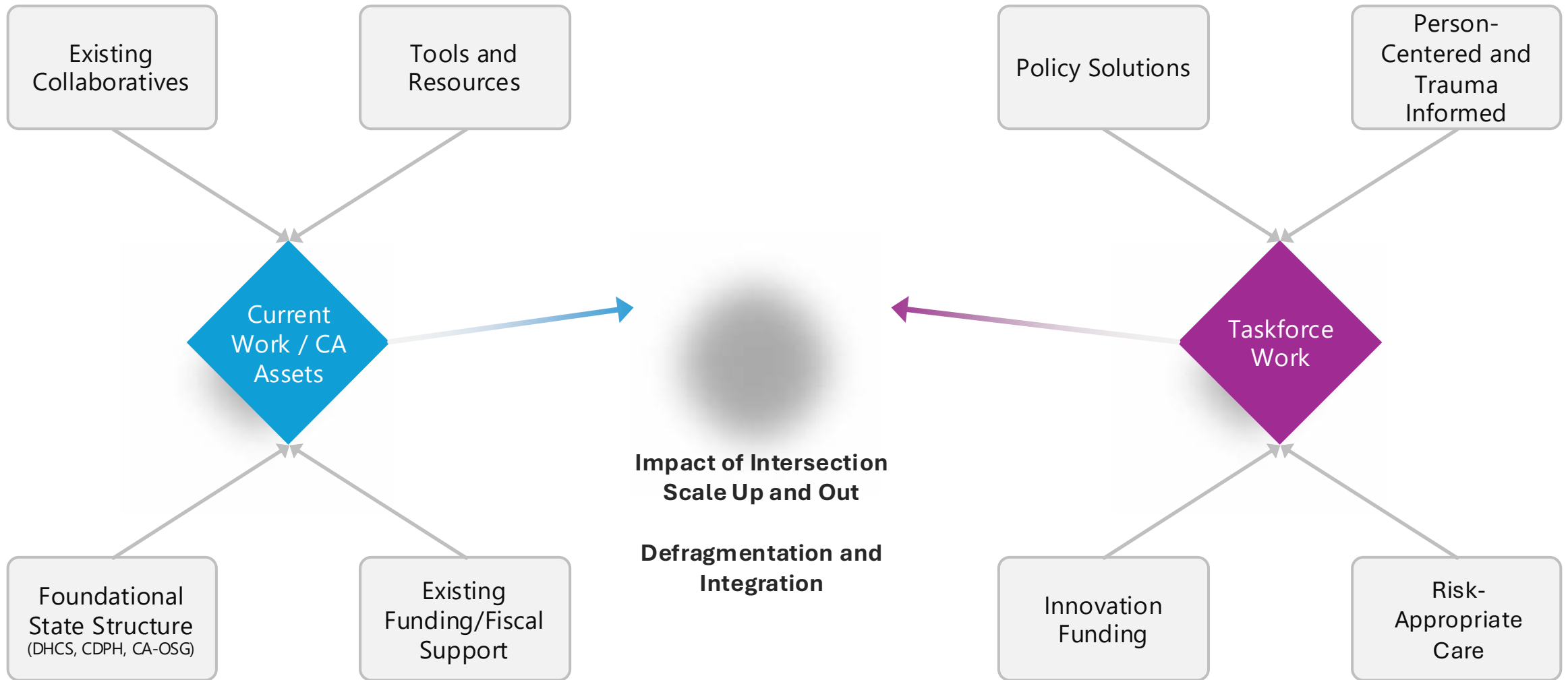
Develop Strategies



Continuous Measurement & Reporting



CA MH Initiative and Existing Maternal Health Work: The Intersection



Evaluation Management by Objectives

What change results from the activities of each subcommittee?

Vision: All mothers and babies in California are thriving at one year postpartum.
Mission: A statewide task force focused on systems integration to better coordinate health care, public health, and community systems to improve maternal health via a collective impact approach.

What change results from the initiative?

Improve Care Experience

Women and infants experience high-quality, respectful care

Trauma informed and integrated communication systems

Increase Access & Links to Risk-Appropriate Care

All women and infants have timely access to care that matches their risk level.

Policy solutions are identified and integrated

Improve Risk Assessment & Follow-Up

Risks are identified early and followed up with effective interventions.

Modernize Data Access & Data Transparency

Stakeholders have timely access to accurate and transparent data.

Data across the birthing care journey is identified and promoted.

Break Down Silos & Integrate Systems

Systems work together to provide seamless, coordinated/whole-person care.

Improved Equitable Outcomes

Long-Term Initiative and Immediate Taskforce Outcomes

What's Next?

ACCOUNTABILITY

Subcommittee Chairs
and Steering Committee
Members meet in-person
to synthesize learnings

ENGAGEMENT

Visit our website for
updates and
opportunities for
engagement.



FEEDBACK

How do we best engage
so this work centers
communities and
systems?

NETWORK

Share with your networks
to help us build a
Maternal Health network



@CaliforniaPQC



@CMQCC



Questions & Answers

Contact Information

California MHI: info@cmqcc.org