



## Michigan Council for Maternal and Child Health 2021 Policy Agenda

### **MCMCH Purpose**

- MCMCH's purpose is to advocate for public policy that will improve maternal and child health and optimal development outcomes through prevention programs, access to care and adequate funding/reimbursement for providers.
  - Maternal is defined as pre-conception, prenatal, post-natal and nurturing;
  - Child is defined as birth through age 21 including infancy and early childhood, adolescence and young adulthood;
  - Health means physical, mental, oral, developmental, spiritual, and social-emotional well-being of a person or family.

### ***Overall Policy Objectives***

1. Work to assure adequate access to and reimbursement for services across all aspects of maternal and child health care including pre-conception health.
2. Promote community involvement in and management of child health, optimal development and safety issues.
3. Advocate for health literacy skills, health education, and healthy environments with a focus on prevention and early identification of risk across the life course from pre-conception care to healthy adulthood.
4. Use data in regard to health consequences and long-term cost to demonstrate return on investment and cost effectiveness of prevention.
5. Collaborate with other stakeholders including state government to strengthen health care systems in Michigan that value maternal and child health.
6. Develop common understanding and expectations of family/patient-centered medical home model and reimbursement.
7. Provide voice for value of unintended pregnancy prevention and availability of reproductive health screenings.

### **Maternal and Infant Health**

**Goal:** Promote investment in a community-based continuum of care focusing on outreach and prevention programs that provide resources and support for pre-pregnancy family planning and prenatal care. Advocate for programs that improve birth outcomes, promote healthy, nurturing family relationships, and support child development.

#### ***Specific policies MCMCH members support:***

1. Seek enhanced recognition of and support for Infant Mental Health specialists as part of a multidisciplinary medical team;

2. Monitor and facilitate implementation of Maternal Infant Health Program (MIHP) within MDHHS to maximize desired outcomes;
3. Promote value of home visiting programs that support maternal and child health, nurturing parent-child relationships and optimal developmental outcomes;
4. Direct resources and programs to communities with highest infant mortality rates and racial and ethnic disparities in birth outcomes;
5. Focus statewide efforts on awareness building around maternal mortality and the intersection between infant and maternal mortality;
6. Work to assure access across the state to medically appropriate levels of prenatal, obstetrical and perinatal care with the goal of a regionalized system; and
7. Emphasize and encourage adoption of policies to support breastfeeding as optimal nutrition for infants that promotes racial equity in outcomes, health, development and nurturing mother-baby relationships.

### **Child and Adolescent Health**

**Goal:** Build a family and person-centered continuum of care and multi-disciplinary approach for children and young adults to assess all facets of their health, learn to prevent health risks, and develop the knowledge and skills needed to make healthy decisions for lifelong health habits and optimal development.

#### ***Specific policies MCMCH members support:***

1. Promote child and adolescent mental health;
2. Advocate for policies that promote health, safety, and school success by utilizing coordinated school health, including implementation of the Michigan Model for Health;
3. Provide access to and reimbursement for primary care and behavioral health services for all school-aged children through school-based and school-linked health centers and school nurses with adequate and sustainable funding;
4. Work on policies that prevent childhood injuries including all forms of child abuse and neglect; and
5. Support the need for and funding of special health care services for children with a focus on access to care and family involvement.

### ***Strategies for Action on Policy Agenda***

*These strategies will serve both as a driving force for advocacy and as criteria for evaluating the effectiveness of the Council.*

1. Use advocacy, direct lobbying and contract lobby services to educate policymakers on the value of health and prevention services for mothers, children and their families.
2. Work in collaboration with other stakeholders on agenda items.
3. Convene stakeholders across systems on specific agenda items.
4. Promote adequate surveillance of key health and service indicators and outcomes.
5. Promote investment in evidence-based practices.
6. Support sustained funding of services that have demonstrated outcomes.
7. Enable consumer voices to speak on key health and service issues at all levels.
8. Prepare policy papers with background on maternal and child health issues emphasizing the value of prevention outcomes and the return on investment.

## Action Agenda for 2021

*These specific items correlate to our policy agenda and are likely to see action in 2020. We will dedicate the bulk of our resources and efforts to support the following issues.*

### **Medicaid**

Support preservation and enhancement of Medicaid rates for all services with a focus on obstetrical care, pediatric specialty care, oral health, primary care and support services; monitor implementation of expanded postpartum eligibility to 12 months; advocate with congressional members on Medicaid and CHIP focusing on enhanced match opportunities; and utilize outcomes data for Medicaid-eligible women and children to demonstrate to lawmakers the importance of Medicaid coverage.

### **Policy Priorities**

Educate and work with partners to create and advocate for policy, legislation, funding, and strategies to improve and support the following:

#### **Racial equity**

- Require implicit bias training for all providers, licensed and unlicensed

#### **Maternal and Infant health**

- Present case for reimbursement of doulas and group prenatal care delivery models such as Centering Pregnancy to enhance outcomes and address disparities
- Participate in statewide efforts inside and outside state government including the Maternal Infant Health and Equity Improvement Collaborative and the Michigan Alliance for Innovation on Maternal Health to help lead and collaborate on policy change to reduce infant and maternal mortality
- Engage with the regional perinatal collaboratives on policy and grassroots opportunities and pursue dedicated funding to ensure their sustainability
- Explore universal family supports through an in-home visit for all postpartum women and infants

#### **Reproductive Health**

- Ensure equitable access to, safety and utilization of contraceptive method of personal choice, free of any form of coercion
- Support funding and policy for colocation of family planning services
- Fight to maintain reproductive health coverage for anyone on Medicaid affected by eligibility or work requirements including reinstatement of PlanFirst
- Advocate for coverage fertility treatment with parity among methods
- Work with other partners on strategies to prevent sexually-transmitted infections

#### **Home Visiting**

- Encourage and promote HV providers and families engagement in grassroots advocacy
- Monitor implementation and support sustainability of centralized or coordinated referral mechanism

- Magnify the need for professional development opportunities and resources to ensure workforce capacity
- Protect current funding and pursue increased investment at state and federal levels for communities lacking a continuum of home visiting programs to meet families' goals

### **Prevention of Unintentional Childhood Injuries**

- Support passage of updated safety seat law to meet national standards

### **Breastfeeding/Availability of Breastmilk**

- Call for Medicaid coverage of banked breastmilk for premature infants
- Support efforts to regulate human milk banks
- Seek reimbursement for lactation support for all breastfeeding families
- Require employers and child care providers to provide appropriate facilities and break times

### **Environmental Toxins**

- Ensure every child with elevated lead levels has access to case management services locally
- Monitor PFAS and other toxins for specific impacts on pregnant women and children

### **Prevention of Violence Against Children and Women**

- Coordinate policy input from hospitals regarding plans of safe care for infants
- Require continuing education on child abuse and neglect for all licensed health care providers
- Support efforts to expand mandated reporter law adding additional professionals

### **School Health**

- Support coordinated school health and the roles of school-based and school-linked health centers, school nurses, and school health coordinators
- Defend the required health credit in Michigan merit curriculum
- Restore funding for Michigan Model for Health to 2002 level
- Continue work with stakeholders, MDHHS and MDE to monitor implementation and promote Medicaid match funding mechanism to ensure nursing and mental health services in school settings throughout the state for all students

### **Behavioral Health**

- Educate and advocate on the importance of timely psychiatric placement with emphasis on the needs of adolescents
- Emphasize the need for a full continuum of services and treatment settings to prevent crises that utilize high acuity settings
- Utilize adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) framework to demonstrate need for trauma-informed care and strengths-based prevention strategies
- Advocate for funding for integrated care models for pregnant/postpartum women and children such as MC3 Perinatal and Pediatric

### **Oral Health**

- Support utilization of the Medicaid dental benefit for pregnant women
- Call for increased provider participation in all publicly funded programs
- Monitor implementation of licensing rules and work to increase awareness and education of dental therapists

### **Newborn Screening**

- Seek reimbursement for hospitals for newborn screening cards and testing required by statute

### **Special Health Care Services for Children**

- Ensure the continuation of quality and timely care for all those eligible for these services
- Advocate for additional models of care to chronically ill children including the use of telemedicine to avoid hospitalization and increase quality of life

### **Childhood Immunizations**

- Seek legislation to require health insurers to reimburse local public health departments
- Empower and organize parent voices to advocate for immunization education
- Oppose efforts to change current parent education requirements for waivers
- Pursue a 12<sup>th</sup>-grade immunization requirement

### **Transportation**

- Lobby for Medicaid policy that allows recipients to have transportation benefits on an EBT card
- Work to amend Medicaid health plans contracts to prohibit advance notice provisions that exceed 24 hours for pregnant women/infant care

### **Pediatric End of Life Care**

- Build awareness and expand options for neonatal and pediatric palliative care, hospice and bereavement services