

Maternal Health Leadership Council—Quarterly Meeting

Date: March 10, 2025

Time: 2:00pm – 4:00pm MT

Location: Zoom

Meeting Results:

1. MHLC Members get to know each other and representing programs
2. Review highlights from the December MHLC Meeting
3. Review and increase knowledge of the Collective Impact model
4. Members will understand actions items and timelines for MHLC
5. Members will be able to identify major data sources for maternal health issues and trends
6. Identify initial workgroups to support MHLC's structure and development processes
7. Members will understand purpose and plans for May Strategic Planning Meeting
8. Backbone team will understand how to support Members for the May Strategic Planning Meeting

Notes

Attendance

Name	Organization
Mandi Zanto	DPHHS
Carolyn Royal	DPHHS
Leslie Lee	DPHHS
Shawnalea Chief Goes Out	DPHHS
Kristi Aklestad	DPHHS
Nikki Campbell	DPHHS
Heidi DeRoche	DPHHS
Mary Duthie	DPHHS
Carly Holman	University of Montana
Haley Cote	Blue Cross Blue Shield MT
Holly Jordt	Montana Public Health Institute
Tressie White	Montana Healthcare Foundation
Olivia Riutta	Primary Care Association
Shani Rich	Montana Hospital Association
Julie Ruff	Montana State University College of Nursing

Kassie Runsabove	Mountain Pacific Quality Health Foundation
Lindsay Benes	Montana State University
Krystal Richards	Healthy SW MT Network
Stephanie Morton	Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies
Mary Collins	University of Montana
Marcy Hanson	University of Montana
Amy Stiffarm	Healthy Mothers Health Babies
Stephanie Fitch	Billings Clinic
Tami Larson	Sidney Health Center
Jessica Liddell	University of Montana
Samantha Greenberg, MD	Family Medicine Residency of Western Montana
Whitney Wells	Bozeman Health
Heather Petty	Love and Sonshine
Felicia Blindman	Northern Cheyenne Public Health Nurse
Drew Babcock	University of Montana
Jeremy Royal	DPHHS
Diona Buck	HMHB
Chelsea Bellon	HMHB

-Welcome & Check-in

- These first few meetings are to make sure that we are familiar with Collective Impact and are starting to build visions for what this group will be. It is a little iterative to the December meeting as we continue to bring on new partners and develop a vision for where we want to go.
- Participants were welcomed and split into breakout rooms to share with each other a little about themselves, their work, and answering the following question: **Question:** *What examples have you seen from your organization (or others) of working together in the Maternal Health space across MT?*

-Review of December Meeting

- Overview of MOMS Program and new 5-year Maternal Health Innovation (MHI) funding opportunity
- Overview of the Collective Impact Model and structure proposal for application within the MHLC
- Activities for MHLC members to provide feedback on proposed structure and next steps

-Overview of Collective Impact & Common Agenda

- **5 Elements of Collective Impact:**
 - ☐ Common agenda
 - ☐ Shared measurement
 - ☐ Mutually reinforcing activities
 - ☐ Continuous communication
 - ☐ Strong backbone
- **Elephant-sized Problem!** This image shows how easily we can misunderstand a situation when we only see a piece of it. Just like each person here is only seeing a part of the elephant, we often only see a part of the problems we're trying to solve. Collective impact is about breaking down those silos and working together across different systems. By sharing our perspectives and coordinating our efforts, we can see the full picture and make a real difference.
- **1. Common Agenda:** In collective impact, a common agenda is our shared roadmap for improving maternal health across Montana. It's how we, as the MHLC (our partnership), work together effectively.
 - ☐ **Defined Goals & Strategies:** First, it clearly outlines our agreed-upon goals and strategies, ensuring everyone is on the same page and working towards the same outcomes.
 - ☐ **Justified Approach:** Second, it explains why we chose these goals, based on thorough research and extensive conversations throughout Montana. This transparency builds community understanding and support.
 - ☐ **Collaborative Engagement:** Building the agenda is about actively engaging stakeholders, fostering dialogue, and creating a shared vision.
 - ☐ **Commitment & Alignment:** It's also about building commitment, where everyone brings their resources and skills to achieve a collective impact greater than any individual effort.
- **2. Shared Measurements:** We need a consistent way to measure progress. This includes agreeing on a set of indicators and collecting data consistently across all participating organizations. Common measurement allows the collaborative to track progress, learn what's working, and adapt strategies as needed. It also creates accountability.
- **3. Mutually Reinforcing Activities:** Each organization's activities should support and complement the efforts of the other partners. This means identifying each organization's strengths and aligning them with the shared agenda. Synergy is created when different organizations work together in a coordinated way, maximizing the impact of each individual effort.
- **4. Continuous Communication:** Regular communication among all partners is imperative. This includes sharing data, discussing challenges, and coordinating activities. Regular communication builds trust, fosters learning, and allows the collaborative to adapt quickly to changing circumstances. It prevents silos and keeps everyone informed.
- **5. Backbone Organization:** A dedicated organization/set of individuals from multiple organizations is needed to provide overall coordination and support for the collaborative. This organization acts as the "glue" that holds everything together. The backbone's key roles:

facilitating meetings, managing communication, collecting data, and supporting the development of the shared agenda. The backbone is crucial for ensuring the long-term success of the collaborative. It provides the infrastructure and support needed to keep the effort moving forward.

- **Collective Impact Structure**

Consider this visual to be flexible! You can take liberties in the way you design this structure.

- Backbone – DPHHS, Yarrow – others?
 - ☐ Work Groups & Partners – Pop up and dissolve on an ongoing basis
 - ☐ Steering Committee – TBD on how you all want to structure this
- Collective Impact groups aren't typically thought of as "owned" by any one organization. There is mutual ownership. In this case, MOMS has funding for the backbone and possible some small grants – but this doesn't necessarily imply "ownership"

-MHLC Development Timeline

- Sarah shared information on the desired timeline for drafting and finalizing key elements of the Collective Impact Model for the consortium, based on deadlines for the Maternal Health Innovation (MHI) grant. The first year of the consortium will focus on building the network, establishing guiding principles, and identifying a structure (how we will interact, report, etc.), as well as drafted pieces of the Common Agenda, for further discussion and finalization.
 - By September 2026: Finalized Common Agenda, Finalized Shared Measurement, and Finalized Reporting Process
 - By September 2029: Functioning statewide maternal health consortium, Finalized plan for sustaining consortium

- Maternal Health Data Overview

- See Slides
- Pregnancy-Related Emergency Department Visits and Hospitalizations
 - No IHS data in this data
- MMRC Timeline
 - Described the overall way that cases are identified, confirmed for MMRC and the process by which it is examined by the Committee, transmitted to CDC, and used later.
- MMRC Data Overview
 - Reviewed the different contributors to maternal death
- Recently Released the 2020 MMRC Report!
 - <https://dphhs.mt.gov/ecfsd/ficmmr/MontanaMaternalMortalityReviewCommittee>

- Collective Impact Building Workgroups

- The Backbone Team identified three potential initial workgroups for MHLC members to participate within to assist with the development of key elements within the Collective Impact Model and build a statewide consortium.

- Proposed workgroups were Membership, Data and Metrics Development, and Collaborative Structure
- MHLC meeting attendees completed a Zoom Whiteboard to pose questions, share concerns, and add ideas on the MHLC and respective workgroups
 - Link to Zoom Whiteboard:
<https://zoom.us/jb/doc/1cPnBcVaSRyKtbgnBBgeCw/p/261278623924224>
- Stephanie Morton spoke a little about the concept of the “the Focus & the Frame”
 - Concept is that we need to be sure to clearly recognize the Focus of our work, and recognize the other areas that are in the “Frame” but are not the “Focus” of what the group would like t

- Wrap-Up and Next Steps

- Prepare for Strategic Planning (aka Common Agenda) Meeting on May 28-29 in Helena
 - Registration Form: <https://mtdphhs.snapsurveys.com/s/pyxbky>
 - Travel Assistance request is built into the form above
- Workgroup Selection Survey will go out via email
 - Workgroups will work on the areas of interest between now and May in an attempt to capitalize on participants’ time
- Pre-work will be sent via e-mail
 - Please complete these as they come across your inbox!

Time	Discussion Topics	Person Responsible	Action Items
2:00pm	-Welcome & Check-in -Review of December Meeting Results: -Partners get to know each other and representing programs -Review highlights from the December MHLC Meeting	DPHHS	
2:30pm	-Overview of Collective Impact & Common Agenda -Membership (Structure Options) Results: -MHLC Members will understand Collective Impact model components and applications -Knowledge of MHLC action items and timeline for September 2025 and August 2029	Yarrow & DPHHS	
3:00pm	Maternal Health Data Overview (Precursor to Defining a Common Problem) Results:	DPHHS	

	-Members will be able to identify major data sources for maternal health issues and trends		
3:30pm	Collective Impact Building Workgroups Results: -Identify 2-3 initial workgroups to support MHLC’s structure and development processes	Yarrow & DPHHS	
3:50pm	Wrap-Up and Next Steps Results: -Members will understand what to expect for May Meeting -Backbone team will understand what members will need to feel prepared for the May meeting	DPHHS	

Parking Lot

Multi-sector workgroup meetings can spark innovation and collaboration. Members are encouraged to share ideas and feedback with the MOMS Program throughout the call. To uphold the objectives of the meeting, items may be placed within the “Parking Lot” for future exploration and discussion.