



Championing Health Equity & Maternal Health

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Background

- Started career in occupational therapy
- Provided interventions for a diverse range of populations (pediatrics to older adults)
- Addressed complex neurological conditions, pediatric school-based fine and gross motor development challenges and supported neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) follow-up clinic.
 - Transitioning planning/and specialized care for NICU graduates.

2

Community Involvement

- City of Topeka Board Commissioner for the Topeka Housing Authority
 - Interest/focus on the direct relationship between housing instability, quality, affordability, and socioemotional/physical health, particularly in maternal and neonatal health.
- Member of The Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs Health Equity Committee
 - Develop public health strategies and recommend solutions to address health disparities, especially racial/ethnic disparities, in Maternal, Child, and Adolescent Health (MCAH), offering national and state-level guidance and leadership to achieve equity in outcomes.

Center for Performance Management Team



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Strategic Initiatives



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Community Partnerships
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Consultant



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CLAS Specialist



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Quality Improvement
Manager



LaCher Edwards
Learning and
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Traci Addington
Program Evaluator



Addressing Maternal Health Disparities

1 Improving Access

The Center for Performance Management Team prioritizes improving pregnancy and postpartum access and services through quality initiatives, strategic planning, accreditation, and Healthy Kansans 2030.

- Achieved through initiatives like workforce training, capacity-building, data enhancements and community engagement.

2 Multi-Sectoral Efforts

- Recognition of multi-sectoral efforts to address extensive health disparities.
- Emphasis on expanding access and eliminating social/economic obstacles.
- Focus on improving health outcomes through collaborative strategies.

Community Health Workers

Kansas Department of Health and Environment- CHW Section

Thanks to the OT21-2103 Disparities Grant from the CDC, we're supporting two groups of Community Health Workers (CHWs). One group, led by KDHE's CHW Section, deploys teams to various clinic settings including rural health clinics, FQHCs, schools, primary care clinics and CBOs (10 total).

Community Organizing to Promote Equity (COPE)- KUMC

University of Kansas Medical Center's Community Organizing to Promote Equity (COPE) program includes Local Health Equity Action Teams (LHEATs) that drive community engagement based on democratic principles, ensuring everyone impacted has a say.

These teams comprise Community Health Workers (CHWs) who serve as the operational force supporting implementation action plans outlined within the county LHEAT (22 counties).



OT21-2103 Disparities Grant

Community Health Workers

Medicaid Re-enrollment Support

Utilize CHWs to aid community members with Medicaid re-enrollment following the de-linking of Continuous enrollment provisions post the Public Health Emergency, as per the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2023.

Healthy Kansans 2030 Health Literacy Survey

The workforce will assist in collecting data to understand maternal health literacy needs related to pregnancy, childbirth, and the postpartum period. This data will inform our understanding of key/evidence-based factors for empowerment, prosperity and well-being as part of state health improvement goals.

3.1.2.7 Access to Health/SDOH Survey Questions: Identify validated questionnaires/questions related to health literacy and Social Determinants of Health.

(a) Create a library of questions to be shared with stakeholders for their data collection efforts.

(b) Encourage stakeholders to use findings from their data collection efforts to inform any efforts related to improving health literacy.

3.1.2.9 Identify Evidence-Based Strategies: Continue to seek and deploy other evidence-based strategies to advance health literacy and access to health information in Kansas.

Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services (CLAS)



Culturally Responsive Service Enhancements

- Bilingual Communications Specialist
- CLAS Specialist
- Pregnancy and Risk Assessment Monitoring System (PRAMS) Interviewer
- Community Partnerships & Engagement Consultant(s)



These initiatives aim to provide inclusive and accessible services to diverse communities, ensuring equitable access to maternal health care.

Collaboration and Engagement

1

Healthy Kansans 2030

- Partner (Kansas Health Matters) to identify core tracking indicators for SHIP.
- Promote collective action and collaboration for impactful health outcomes in Kansas.

2

Health Equity Power of Partnerships Alliance

- Facilitate collaboration among government and community leaders.
- Commitment to leveraging partnerships for positive and sustainable community health outcomes.

3

Kansas Maternal Mortality Review Committee

- Reviews maternal mortality cases to improve systems of care and increase awareness of factors that contribute to pregnancy-related death.

4

Healthy People 2030 State & Territorial Coordinators

- Ways to address evidence-based and promising practices and leading health indicators outlined in People 2030.
- Peer-to-peer discussion on current health promotion and disease prevention efforts and opportunities for collaboration.



Collaboration and Engagement

3

Maternal Mortality Review Committee

- The Kansas MMRC reviews maternal mortality cases to improve systems of care and increase awareness of factors that contribute to pregnancy-related death.

4

Healthy People 2030 State & Territorial Coordinators

- Ways to address evidence-based and promising practices and leading health indicators outlined in People 2030.
- Peer-to-peer discussion on current health promotion and disease prevention efforts and opportunities for collaboration.



Transforming Maternal, Child & Adolescent Health



Perinatal Community Health Workers

Exploring the integration of perinatal community health workers to provide culturally responsive support and education to families during pregnancy and after childbirth.



Workforce Training

Workforce and professional development training to ensure that healthcare providers are equipped with the knowledge and skills to provide culturally responsive and equitable maternal health care.



Data Enhancements

Enhancing maternal health data collection and analysis, with a focus on social determinants of health, to better understand and address disparities in maternal health outcomes.



Maternal Mental Health and Substance Use Interventions

Linkages to community-based resources and on demand mental health treatment and resources for pregnant and postpartum people in real-time
Build capacity for providers to recognize, assess, treat and/or refer people with Perinatal Mood and Anxiety Disorder(s) and Perinatal Substance User Disorder(s).



In addressing maternal health crises today, every word carries immense weight, especially for communities historically impacted by these unacceptably high mortality rates. Consider the concept of invisibility hyper-visibility, seen in the experiences of Black, Indigenous, Hispanic women and many woman in rural communities across Kansas.

Despite often being rendered invisible in healthcare narratives and decision-making processes, these women are hyper-visible in the distressing statistics that highlight their disproportionate suffering in maternal and child health.

Amplify Diverse Voices

Challenge Systemic Biases

Empower and Collaborate

Rewriting the Narrative



101 years since Martha passed