

**Priority 6: Strengthen workforce capacity and enhance public health systems by investing in training, infrastructure, and cross-sector collaboration, ensuring a skilled, adaptable workforce and resilient systems capable of addressing current and emerging maternal and child health needs.**

## **Cross-Cutting: Workforce Development**

### **MCH Professional Development Initiatives**

*Objective 6.1—Increase the percent of providers and local MCH agencies that report increased knowledge and comfort addressing emerging MCH issues by 2% annually through 2030.*

**Third Thursdays:** The Kansas MCH Team, along with subject matter experts from across the state, will continue convening a monthly learning opportunity for MCH providers. The sessions will focus on providing information about initiatives and resources that can be applied to MCH work across all communities. Additionally, as new or emerging MCH issues arise, these webinars will be used to relay information and best practices. All webinar sessions will be recorded and a copy of the recording, slide deck, and referenced resource materials will be made available to anyone who registers for the sessions following the live training.

**Title V Change Academy:** The Title V Change Academy is a series of trainings that was developed in partnership with the University of Kansas Center for Community Health and Development (KU-CCHD). Topics for the trainings cover a variety of public health topics such as analyzing problems and goals, building leadership, advocating for change, and sustainability. From Fall 2024 to Spring 2025, KU-CCHD piloted the trainings with local KPCC and BaM sites with great success. Over the next year Title V will partner with KU-CCHD to evaluate the pilot and launch additional learning cohorts. Also, the based on a suggestion from the pilot sites, the feasibility of offering these courses in-person with additional hands-on training will be assessed.

### **ATL Tailored Resource Packets:**

**Exploring Workforce Opportunities to Address Maternity Care Deserts:** According to the March of Dimes most recent report, over 45% of counties in Kansas are maternity care deserts and 8.4% of women had no birthing hospital within 30 minutes. One potential solution to increasing access to prenatal care is through the use of Certified Nurse-Midwives (CNMs). Legislation in Kansas was passed in 2022 that allows CNMs to practice independently performing the full scope of their training and certification without needing physician oversight. However, uptake of allowing CNMs to practice within their full scope has been minimal across the state. Over the next year, the Title V Director in partnership with CNMs, physicians, and health care systems to identify the concerns/barriers to uptake of the use of CNMs. As needed, the Title V team will help develop resources to address the myths or concerns surrounding the more robust incorporation of CNMs into prenatal and postpartum care.

**Trauma-Informed Training:** Over the past year, the Title V team was fortunate to have an individual who was trained in trauma-informed care and could offer training to MCH professionals. With the departure of this team member, the Title V team will explore available trauma-informed care trainings and determine whether members of the team should become trauma-informed care trainers or if these trainings should be supported by Title V by using other organizations to provide the trainings to interested professionals in the state.