

Draft Maternal Health Strategic Plan for NHPQC Website

The Maternal Health Task Force (MHTF) is a statewide initiative in New Hampshire dedicated to improving maternal health outcomes. Comprised of a broad network of maternal health stakeholders, the MHTF meets regularly to guide the strategic direction of the New Hampshire Perinatal Quality Collaborative (NHPQC) — which serves as a statewide convener, resource hub, and advocate for perinatal health.

A key goal of the MHTF is to develop a comprehensive statewide strategic plan for maternal health. The Task Force is responsible for ensuring that all efforts to improve perinatal care align with the mission, vision, guiding principles, key drivers, and strategies outlined in that plan.

Both the MHTF and the NHPQC are housed at Dartmouth Health, and the Task Force is funded through a Maternal Health Innovation Grant from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA).

Vision

All birthing patients feel emotionally, psychologically, and physically safe as they experience caring, respectful, high-quality care before, during and after birth.

Mission

The Maternal Health Task Force aims to build a patient-centered, data-driven, evidence-based, sustainable infrastructure to assure that every pregnant and postpartum patient, and infant receives high quality, safe care. We support New Hampshire birthing communities with an integrated and collaborative approach to improve health outcomes before, during, and after birth for all. We honor each person's unique and transformative experience of childbirth.

Guiding Principles

The MHTF has developed a set of guiding principles that provide a shared framework for decision-making and action. These principles reflect the range of voices and experiences within the Task Force and ensure that our efforts remain aligned with our mission, vision, and strategic goals.

Influenced by our previous lived and professional experiences, we infuse the varied voices of our stakeholders and those in our community into improving the quality and access of perinatal care in New Hampshire. We will build a sustainable infrastructure to work effectively and collaboratively to eliminate unacceptable variation in perinatal outcomes through partnering with community. Together, we will create a strategic plan, intentionally striving towards decision-making that includes all voices. We will create a framework for

safe birthing care for all which includes education, alignment of maternal health improvement initiatives, and standardization of best practices.

Key Drivers

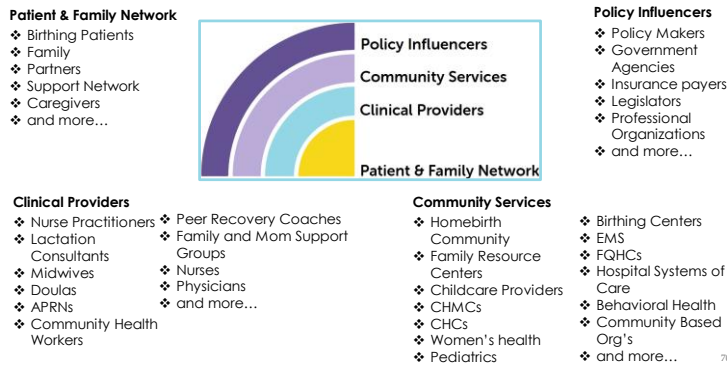
Using insights from state-level maternal health data, the MHTF identified key drivers that direct where to focus collective efforts and resources. Chosen for their potential to create meaningful, measurable change, these drivers aim to strengthen maternal health and promote overall wellness across all communities in New Hampshire.

1. Support Safe, High-Quality Care that includes Medical, Emotional, Mental Health and Spiritual Supports for All Across the Perinatal Spectrum
2. Build the Capacity to Continuously Improve in Birthing Communities
3. Promote An Integrated Collaborative Approach Where Resources Are Shared
4. Foster a Culture of Caring for All - Including All Patients, Families, Providers, Staff, and All Other Circles of Supports
5. Create and Promote Patient Centered Systems that Enable Individualized and Holistic Care
6. Promote Fairness in Processes and Outcomes Using Best Practices Including Collaborating with Communities to Co-Create Solutions
7. Learn from One Another, Work Together, and Cultivate a Shared Commitment to Change
8. Increase Continuous Communication Between Stakeholders and Awareness of Resources
9. Support Data and Community-Driven Improvement Initiatives
10. Collectively Work to Address Social Needs That Influence Perinatal Health
11. Raise Awareness with Birthing Communities of Priority Issues and Concerns, and Support Policy and Advocacy

Maternal Health Task Force Membership

Comprising patients and professionals from across the maternal health landscape, the MHTF reflects a wide range of perspectives—from state and local leaders to community services, clinical providers, and patient and family networks

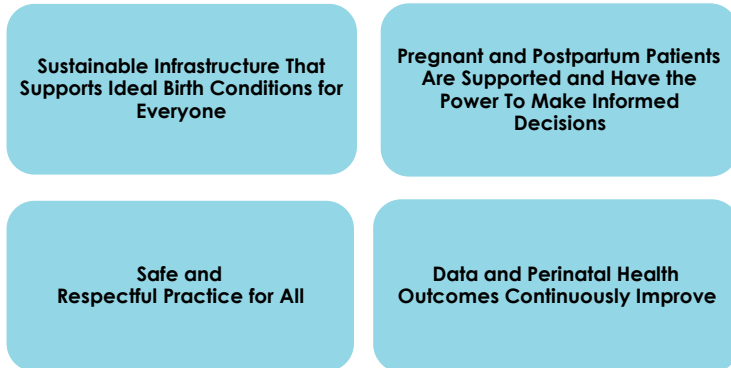
*MATERNAL HEALTH TASK FORCE: WHO WE ARE



Strategic Goals and Objectives

The four MHTF Goals address the maternal health needs as identified by the State of Maternal Health Needs of New Hampshire Report, with a focus on closing the gaps between regional need and different populations with the highest rates of maternal morbidity and severe maternal morbidity.

Maternal Health Task Force Goals



The MHTF's objectives focus on advancing evidence-informed clinical practices and processes, strengthening collaboration among birthing patients, providers, and communities, and achieving improvements in population-level outcomes in perinatal health.

Goal 1	Sustainable Infrastructure That Supports Ideal Birth Conditions for Everyone
Goal Statement	Support increased communication, integration and collaboration amongst all members of the birthing community. Create perinatal systems and policies for overall well-being during pregnancy and the postpartum period, and for infants, providers and communities statewide

Objectives	<p>1. All NH birthing communities communicate and convene regularly with active participation by all impacted stakeholders/partners to address community perinatal priorities. This includes pregnant and postpartum patients, community organizations, hospitals and all other participants*</p> <p>2. All improvements to advance perinatal outcomes are community-driven, integrated and collaborative, patient-centered, and encompassing all voices at either the organization, community, system, or policy level</p> <p>3. All communities build and sustain processes, systems, and policies to support improved outcomes for all birthing patients</p> <p>4. Systems and policies are designed to support all participants'* wellbeing</p> <p><i>*See 'Who We Are' for full list of participants</i></p>
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Goal 2	Safe and Respectful Practice for All
Goal Statement	Promote welcoming and respectful practices and spaces in prenatal, birth, and postpartum care provision, so that all people – regardless of background, circumstance, beliefs, role, or position – feel seen, heard, valued, respected, and feel a sense of belonging. Every participant in the perinatal journey feels emotional, psychological, and physical safety
Objectives	<p>1. Provide education, tools, and resources for providers, organizations and communities to increase capacity for improving good communication, and respectful, patient centered, psychologically safe, trauma-informed care for all</p> <p>2. Support systems change to promote best practices and implementation of evidence-based care</p>

Goal 3	Pregnant and Postpartum Patients Are Supported and Have the Power To Make Informed Decisions
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Goal Statement	Promote a collaborative approach to care that is grounded in authentic partnership, coproduction, and true shared decision making. Support the power of pregnant and postpartum patients to make informed decisions about their care, reflecting and valuing individual choices and preferences
Objectives	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Pregnant and postpartum patients and family members are provided with accurate and transparent information about best practices for high quality, safe, comprehensive reproductive health care. This includes miscarriage, bereavement, reproductive autonomy, and other pivotal decision points along the perinatal journey 2. Providers and systems understand, and are able to, engage in effective communication, collaborative care, coproduction, and shared decision making with respect and support for personal choice 3. Pregnant and postpartum patients feel supported in their autonomy to make informed decisions about all their individual choices and care 4. Providers and systems acknowledge and address power dynamics between providers and pregnant and postpartum patients and create authentic partnerships

Goal 4	Data and Perinatal Health Outcomes Continuously Improve
Goal Statement	Build capacity statewide for data-driven, evidence-based practices to eliminate undesired variation in health outcomes and improve the safety and quality of perinatal care for all
Objectives	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Co-create a system for collecting NH data related to perinatal care and outcomes within 12 months 2. Co-develop shared metrics and evaluate progress annually 3. Collectively review current data to interpret meaning, identify trends and targeted areas for improvement, and share data with all partners in communities

	<p>4. Co-design and implement improvement projects grounded in these findings to improve perinatal care and quality for all</p> <p>5. Continuously share evidence-informed practices to improve safety and quality for all</p>
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Strategies to Address Maternal Health Needs

The strategies outline the short-, mid-, and long-term actions the MHTF will take to achieve its goals and objectives and to guide implementation efforts. In some cases, the scope of work will require broader collaboration, and additional partners and stakeholders have been identified to participate as appropriate.

Strategies
1. Address Workforce Challenges
2. Create and Support a Sustainable Resource and Communication System for Birthing Communities and Providers
3. Enhance Provider-Patient Relationship through Improved Communication and Power Dynamic
4. Co-create with those with Lived Birthing Experiences to Provide Vital Info/Insights for Provider Education to Inform Improvement Efforts
5. Support Efforts for Robust and Sustainable Perinatal Behavioral Health Services and Provide Training Supports for Workforce
6. Co-Create Opportunities for Providers to Focus on their Healing from Direct and Secondary Trauma
7. Educate and Inform Towards Policy and Advocacy Priorities
8. Creation of Infrastructure to Support Community-based QI Work through the NHPQC Website and Community-Facing Dashboards Initiative
9. Expand Access to Prenatal Care in Community-based Settings
10. Enhance Home Visiting and Support for all Postpartum Patients
11. Expand Network for Peer-to-Peer Connections and Support during Pregnancy and Parenting
12. Partner with Local-and-State-level Organizations to Improve Birthing Patients' Physical Access to Services, Safe and Affordable Housing, and Recovery-friendly Workforce Development
13. Support Holistic Transition into Parenthood
14. Sustain Coalition Infrastructure to Support Perinatal Care Improvement Initiatives Across the Continuum (Hospital and Community-based)
15. Sustain the Task Force