



Learning Community Meeting

March 21, 2023

Changing Maternal Care Delivery:
Spotlight on Kindred Space LA and Accompany Doula Care

Agenda

Welcome

Spotlight on Kindred Space LA and Accompany Doula Care

Kimberly Durdin, LM, DPM, IBCLC, Co-Founder and Co-Owner,
Kindred Space LA

Christina Gebel, MPH, LCC, Interim Executive Director of
Research and Co-Founder, Accompany Doula Care

A Look Back Over Phase 2 of the Maternal Health Hub

Reminders

Adjourn

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Looking Back and Looking Ahead...

Since 2020, the Maternal Health Hub Learning Community has grown to 300+ members, representing over 125 organizations, and met 22 times. The MHH website receives approximately 400 page views a month, and MHH twitter has almost 600 followers.

Thank You to the Learning Community, to our sub-contractors the National Birth Equity Collaborative, and to the Commonwealth Fund for supporting this work!

In January we surveyed the Learning Community to gather feedback on the following questions:

- What has been most valuable in terms of Maternal Health Hub Resources and Topics?
- What are the top challenges in addressing maternal mortality and morbidity?
- What Medicaid reforms are most critical to supporting the community-based maternity model?

The goal of survey was to identify potential focus areas for future work

Maternal Health Hub Value

- Learning about promising practices in payment reform that support affordable access to midwives, birth centers, doulas, childbirth educators, community health workers, and expanded coverage
- Hearing from states, commercial payers, and providers about health equity efforts
- Having access to curated resources and research in a format that is easy to download and disseminate
- Learning about the role payers play in addressing the maternal mortality and morbidity crisis

Current and Ongoing Challenges

- Flawed core care model based on management and pathology versus support, wellness, and addressing social and mental health needs
- Overall inadequate funding which leads to challenges in:
 - Securing sustainable reimbursement for comprehensive, community-based prenatal and post-partum care providers and settings
 - Making patient education on birthing options and patient-centered care widely available to empower birthing people to make informed choices
 - Lack of access to evidence-based models of care (midwifery, doula care, birth centers, mental health)
- Structural, institutional, and interpersonal racism and other forms of discrimination
- Lack of access to evidence-based care in clinical settings
- Roadblocks at the federal, state and institutional levels to reproductive justice
- Workforce Challenges: bias, pipeline, barriers to recruiting and training a diverse workforce

Top Priorities for Leveraging Medicaid

- Appropriate/Parity Reimbursement that ensures adequate networks and access for birthing individuals
 - Licensed midwives
 - Doulas and perinatal community health workers
 - Facility fees for birth centers and resources for home birth
 - Certified childbirth educators
- Support for services that address social risk factors: food deserts, housing, transportation
- Continued leveraging of Medicaid MCO contracting
- Incentives that support adoption and integration of midwives and doulas; and measures that allow payment to be tied to such integration
- Reduced regulatory burdens for birth centers to contract with Medicaid
- Value-based maternity care models that move away from the fee-for-service model

We appreciate and value this Learning Community and welcome your continued thinking and feedback !

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Reminder: Register for *Raising the Bar for Excellence and Equity in Maternity Care*

The National Partnership for Women and Families is hosting a launch event on **March 22 at 3pm ET** for *Raising the Bar for Excellence and Equity in Maternal Health*, a practical guide for health care provider institutions on advancing health equity and excellence in maternal health.

The launch event will be held at the Eaton Hotel in DC, with the option to attend virtually.

Register here: <https://act.nationalpartnership.org/a/raisingthebar>

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