

## CHCF CHIP Summary

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**CHIP Title:** Birth-Centered Outcomes Research Engagement (*B-CORE*) in Medi-Cal

### *How might we center patient and provider voices to decrease maternal deaths in Medi-Cal?*

#### **Project Description:**

- **Background:** While maternal mortality rates in California have declined by more than half over the past two decades, Medi-Cal-insured individuals in the state continue to shoulder a disproportionate burden of maternal deaths and severe maternal morbidity. Medi-Cal members are almost twice as likely to die during pregnancy/birth than their privately-insured counterparts. California has achieved improvements in birth outcomes by using mortality and morbidity data to guide quality improvement and research. *This suggests that engaging Medi-Cal stakeholders in similar research and quality improvement efforts holds promise to extend gains to this population.*
- **Objective:** The project will use deliberative democracy methods to engage stakeholders most impacted by pregnancy-related death in Medi-Cal to generate solutions and design interventions to support equity in maternal health outcomes for Medi-Cal-covered births.

#### **Key Findings:**

- Funding for project awarded from the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI; \$249,853.00) – project launched 6/1/21
- Steering Council formed – meeting quarterly
- Stakeholders recruited: 36 participants from across California – Medi-Cal beneficiaries, Medi-Cal perinatal care providers, health plan quality administrators, birth advocates/public health professionals
- Co-learning series launched 10/13/21

**Lessons Learned:** This CHIP highlighted the complexity of community engagement projects – building relationships and community capacity takes time and flexibility in leadership style. *B-CORE* in Medi-Cal is tackling a statewide issue; problems of this scope may not be solved within two years.

#### **Next Steps:**

- On track for deliberation sessions in June/July of 2022; will culminate in creation of stakeholder-generated priorities for change
- Leaders in perinatal care improvement in California are involved and will be using/disseminating results: Department of Health Care Services, California Maternal Quality Care Collaborative, California Health Care Foundation, National Committee on Quality Assurance, Institute for Medicaid Innovation, March of Dimes
- Ideas (research priorities, quality improvement targets) will be translated into actionable projects to improve maternal health outcomes in Medi-Cal