CONTINUUM OF CARE INTEGRATION:
The Health Center Advantage for Maternal Health

YEAR ONE: DISCOVERY 2023

This has been a formative year of listening and
discovery to understand the role health centers
can play in improving maternal health of
disproportionately impacted populations.

With CDC support, NACHC has been working to
create partnerships between Maternal Mortality
Review Committees (MMRCs), Perinatal Quality
Collaboratives (PQCs) and CHCs in Illinois and
Florida, with a goal of connecting MMRC data and
recommendations to actions that will reduce
disparities in pregnancy-related deaths.

NACHC used UDS data and state MMRC data in Illinois
and Florida to identify nine (9) health centers that
work with populations disproportionately impacted
by pregnancy related maternal mortality within these
two respective states. During initial meetings, MMRC
findings and PQC state-led activities were presented,
and exploratory discussions held to identify potential
opportunities for improved maternal care programming
and coordination. This work is exciting and new for
all parties.

Key stakeholders are learning about health center
relationships with local hospitals, gaps in care
coordination, and how state MMRC reports can
inform integrated care for disproportionately affected
populations. NACHC has worked with MMRCs,
PQCs, Health Center Control Networks (HCCNs), and
health centers to determine PQC and Health Center
engagement, describe goals to prevent pregnancy-
related death—especially for disproportionately
impacted populations—and determine how to
work together in the future. Health centers are
simultaneously exploring ways to reduce barriers
such as access to Medicaid postpartum coverage
and securing referrals to specialists, especially when
providers uncover risk factors like cardiac and coronary
conditions, cardiomyopathy, hypertension, and barriers
to accessing care like transportation or underinsured.

This discovery phase has affirmed our belief
that Health Centers hold promise in helping fill gaps
in maternal care for disproportionately affected
patients. To learn more about MMRCs, please visit
www.cdc.gov/erasemm. To learn more about PQCs,
please visit State Perinatal Quality Collaborative
to learn more about the CDC Hear Her Campaign,
please visit Hear Her.