Step 1 of Maine CDC Maternal & Child Health Title V Block Grant
Needs Assessment: Gathering Community Input

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Introduction

The Maine Center for Disease Control (ME CDC) receives funding through the Health Resources & Services Administration (HRSA) Title V Maternal and Child Health Block Grant Program, which creates Federal/State partnerships to address the health services needs of 5 population domains: women, infants, children, children with special health care needs, & adolescents. Every 5 years ME must conduct a needs assessment to determine its priorities for the next 5 years. Currently Maine is in Step 1 (highlighted in graphic below) of the Needs Assessment Process for 2025-2030. This step involves gathering community input.

Methods

The Maine CDC working with Office of Population Health & organizations to engage community members in the Title V Needs Assessment process to identify the most important issues impacting maternal & child health in Maine. Despite concerted recruitment efforts, invitations, and a financial incentive, many people and agencies did not attend sessions. The experiences of the people in the room shape the conversations and influence the outcomes.

Data & Results

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Domain Listening Sessions</th>
<th>Community Input Forums</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Attendees/In person:</strong></td>
<td>Location</td>
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<tr>
<td>32:26</td>
<td>Bangor</td>
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<tr>
<td>21:11</td>
<td>Augusta</td>
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</tbody>
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Top Priorities for each Domain Identified @ Domain Listening Sessions

- Perinatal & Infant Health
  - Access to Quality Care
  - Social Determinants
  - Delivery and Neonatal Care

- Women & Maternal Health
  - Access to Quality Care
  - Mental/Health/Substance Use
  - Abuse & Violence

- Child Health
  - Basic Needs/Social Determinants
  - Mental Health
  - Oral Health

- Children with Special Health Care Needs
  - Service/Coordination
  - Access to Quality Care

Adolescent Health

- Connection/trust in adults
- Social Determinants
- Mental Health

Organizations that Participated

- Child Development Services: Maine Coalition Against Sexual Assault
- Center for Community Inclusion & Disability Studies: Office Population Health Equity
- DHHS Office Child and Family Safety: Maine Department of Education
- Developmental Disabilities Council: OUT Maine
- Help Me Grow: Maine State Planning Coalition
- Let’s Go: Maine State Breastfeeding Coalition
- Maine Boys to Men: Maine Youth Action Network
- Maine Children’s Trust: Rural Maternal Obstetrics Management Strategies Program (RMOMS)
- Maine CDC: Disease Prevention, Youth Suicide Prevention, Newborn Bloodspot Screening, Newborn Hearing, Genetics, Birth Defects, Cleft Lip & Palate, Public Health Nursing, Maternal Infant Fetal Mortality Review Panel, etc.

Highlights

- Participating expressed gratitude for having their voices heard
- Maine CDC committed to cultural humility & family engagement
- So much good work happening across Maine
- Grateful for the opportunity to meet others in similar fields

Recommendations

- More strategic coordinated statewide recruitment effort, especially for families / people with lived experience
- Reduce barriers to community participation, increase locations, dates, times, virtual options. Offer incentives, transportation, childcare, etc.
- Coordinate with partner organizations’ events & leverage opportunities to gather community input – tabling, surveys, groups etc.
- Ensure that at least 1 CDC leadership staff member is at all community input forum / domain listening session
- Provide more frequent ongoing opportunities for community connection / discussion with MCH

Recommendations to Increase Participation

- Exit surveys: Collect feedback on process immediately after all community sessions (who was not there, how to reach them)
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References

https://www.mainepublicradio.org/post/center-child-health-block-grant
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