

# Arkansas Maternal Health Community of Practice



**2024 Spring Forum Summary**

# Introduction

On May 16, 2024, on the UAMS campus in Little Rock, The Arkansas Maternal Health Community of Practice (MHCoP) convened its first in-person Forum. There were 34 attendees present, representing a wide range of stakeholder organizations including providers, policy advocates, social services program managers, patients, community advocates, and funders.



The Forum had two primary goals:

①

**Strengthen relationships** among MHCoP members

②

Gather feedback on the draft **maternal health strategic plan**

# Attendees

## **Taylor Baughman**

ARKANSAS WIC

## **Alexandra Bornkessel**

OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET

## **Tracey Bradley-Simmons**

ARKANSAS AWHONN

## **Natalie Brink**

ARKANSAS WIC

## **Dawn Brown**

UAMS POWER & ARPQC

## **Pam Brown**

ARKANSAS HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION

## **Jennifer Callaghan-Koru**

PRIMROSE & ARPQC

## **Cyndi Coleman**

METHODIST FAMILY HEALTH/ ARKANSAS CARES

## **Sarah Coleman**

ARKANSAS HOME VISITING NETWORK

## **Amanda Deel**

ARKANSAS ACADEMY OF FAMILY PHYSICIANS/NEW YORK INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

## **Dominique Dubois**

AMERICAN COLLEGE OF NURSE-MIDWIVES

## **Kenya Eddings**

ARKANSAS MINORITY HEALTH COMMISSION

## **Starla Frazier**

METROPOLITAN HOUSING ALLIANCE (LR HOUSING AUTHORITY)

## **Susan Heath**

OUR HOUSE

## **Rich Huddleston**

ARKANSAS COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

## **Shakia Jackson**

OFFICE OF HEALTH DISPARITIES ELIMINATION

## **Rebecca Le**

MARCH OF DIMES MOBILE VAN FOR MOMS

## **Kanna Lewis**

UAMS FAMILY & PREVENTATIVE MEDICINE

## **Emri Luther**

UAMS HEALTHY START

## **Cassandra Maggitt**

THE GENESIS 7 BIRTHING PROJECT

## **Kristian Mays**

LITTLE ROCK BLACK NURSES ASSOCIATION OF ARKANSAS

## **Lynne McAllester**

ARKANSAS DISABILITY COALITION

## **Jillian Neely**

FOLLOWING BABY BACK HOME

## **Vivian Okanume**

UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE, FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES

## **Rebeca Pittillo**

BLUE & YOU FOUNDATION

## **Shaneca Smith**

AFMC

## **Dawne Sokora**

CHI-ST VINCENT/RMOMS GRANT

## **Bonnie Stribling**

DHS, OFFICE OF SUBSTANCE ABUSE & MENTAL HEALTH

## **Anna Strong**

ARKANSAS CHAPTER OF AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PEDIATRICS

## **Tracy Turner**

ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

## **Laura Tyler**

ARISA HEALTH

## **Craig Wilson**

ARKANSAS CENTER FOR HEALTH IMPROVEMENT

## Co-Chairs

## **William "Sam" Greenfield**

ADH, UAMS, & ARPQC

## **Zenobia Harris**

ARKANSAS BIRTHING PROJECT

## Facilitator

## **Nadine Doyle**

DOYLE STRATEGIES





## Strengthening Relationships

To facilitate the day-long event, co-chairs William Greenfield, MD, and Zenobia Harris, DNP, were joined by Nadine Doyle from Doyle Strategies. Ms. Doyle led the group through engaging team-building activities aimed at fostering connections and collaboration among participants. The first of the activities was "3 Question Mingle," in which attendees exchanged meaningful insights through structured conversations based on personal questions.





Ms. Doyle next led the group through the Campfire activity that divided attendees into small groups of four or five and was designed to deepen understanding between attendees. A list of approximately 50 words related to maternal health and partnership was the prompt for this activity. Each word was written on Post-it notes and then the notes were placed on the wall. Attendees reviewed the sticky notes “wall of words” to recall a story they could share that was associated with one of the words. In each small group, attendees took turns selecting a word and sharing a three-minute story. The Campfire activity also provided an opportunity for attendees to talk about what they hope will happen in the future to improve maternal health in Arkansas.



# Strategic Planning

During a working lunch, MHCOP members reviewed copies of the state strategic plan. After lunch, Ms. Doyle facilitated discussion around the plan. Members expressed enthusiasm about the strategic plan and its potential impact on maternal health in Arkansas, and identified several strengths and recommendations for additions to the plan:



## *Strengths*

- \* Maternal health scorecard
- \* Diverse stakeholder inclusion
- \* Social determinants of health focus
- \* Health equity emphasis

## *Recommendations*

- \* Consider sustainability
- \* Define initiative ownership
- \* Educate the public on the maternal health crisis
- \* Collect & share stakeholder stories



# Thinking Big

In the final structured activity of the day, members participated in a 25/10 Crowdsourcing activity that encouraged them to collectively imagine and articulate what is possible for maternal health in Arkansas when stakeholders work together. Members were asked to select one of three challenges for maternal health in Arkansas, based on interest and expertise. Each group member was asked:

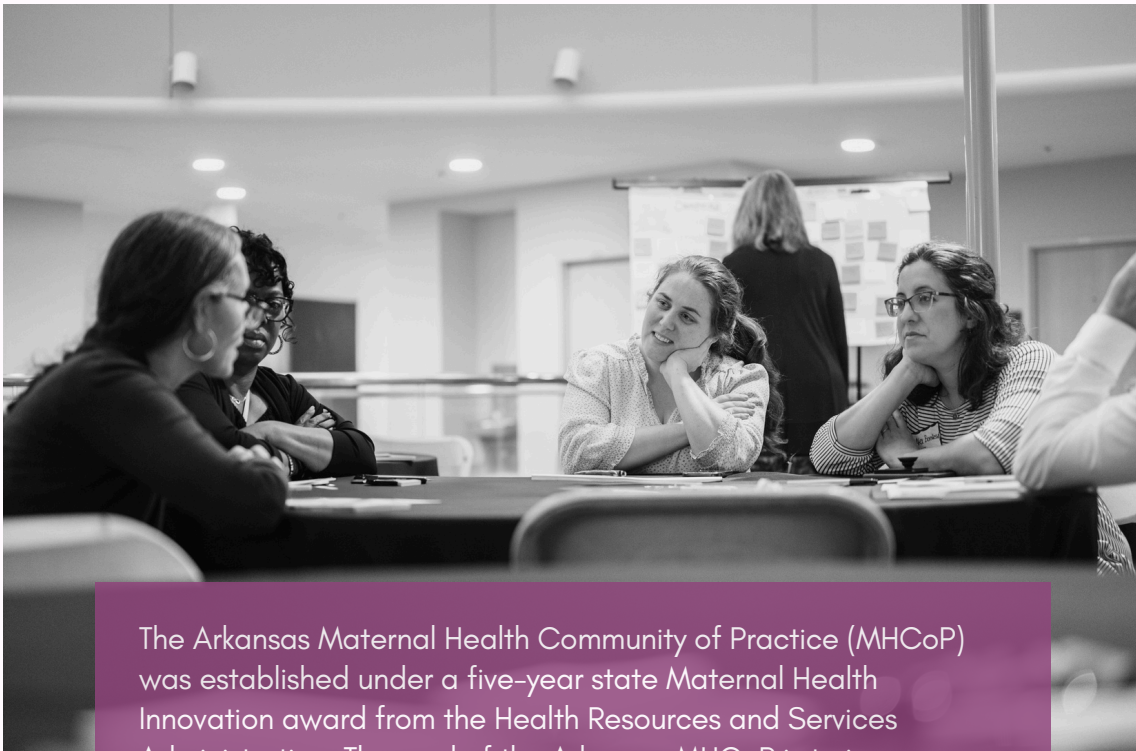
If maternal health stakeholders in Arkansas were **ten times bolder**, what would we do to address this challenge?

Proposed strategies were written on index cards, circulated among the group, and members anonymously scored each strategy based on how much they would support it. The three highest scoring strategies for each challenge were reported to the larger group:

<i>Challenges</i>	<i>Highest score</i>	<i>2nd highest score</i>	<i>3rd highest score</i>
Lack of geographic access to maternity care	Mobile maternity care	Family medicine physicians provide prenatal and postpartum care	Increase the Medicaid reimbursement global fee rate
Racial disparities in maternal health outcomes	Implicit bias training for providers	Culturally congruent care	Increase the diversity of the healthcare workforce
Impact of social determinants of health on maternal health	Trained and certified community health workers to serve as care navigators	Training and certifying community-based doulas	Establishing Medicaid coverage for doula care

# Looking Ahead

Following crowdsourcing, all participants reconvened to reflect on the Forum. Several members expressed appreciation for meeting colleagues from organizations that they had not been aware of before attending the Forum. Participants were excited about opportunities to collaborate on maternal health challenges in Arkansas. To close the Forum, the Community of Practice co-chairs, and Dr. Jennifer Callaghan-Koru, PI of the Arkansas Maternal Health Innovation Award, discussed the next steps for revision and submission of a final state strategic plan to HRSA by September 2024.



The Arkansas Maternal Health Community of Practice (MHCoP) was established under a five-year state Maternal Health Innovation award from the Health Resources and Services Administration. The goal of the Arkansas MHCoP is to increase awareness, coordination, and collaboration between sectors, organizations, and programs with an interest in improving maternal health in Arkansas. During quarterly meetings, which began in May 2023, partners present their work across the state. The Arkansas MHCoP is separate from, and complements the work of, the taskforce established under Governor Sander's Executive Order 24-03.

