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# HMA

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## Equity Considerations for Addressing Opioid Use Disorder

April 2024

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# TODAY'S AGENDA

- **Review National Statistics**
- **Minnesota**
  - SUD Community of Practice
- **Delaware**
  - Health Equity Advancement Project
- **Los Angeles County**
  - Partnering to Address Birth Equity
- **Q&A**

# PROJECT PARTNERS



**Paul Fleissner**  
*Managing Principal*  
HMA



**George Lewis**  
*Founder & CEO*  
Motivational Consulting, Inc.

- The AMA reports that opioid-related overdoses are now a leading cause of death associated with pregnancy and the postpartum period, with **mortality rates rising more than 80%** between 2017 and 2020.
- While overdose **rates increased 30%** nationally from 2019-2020, during that same time period, overdose rates **increased by 44% for non-Hispanic Black persons and 39%** for non-Hispanic American Indian or Alaska Native persons.

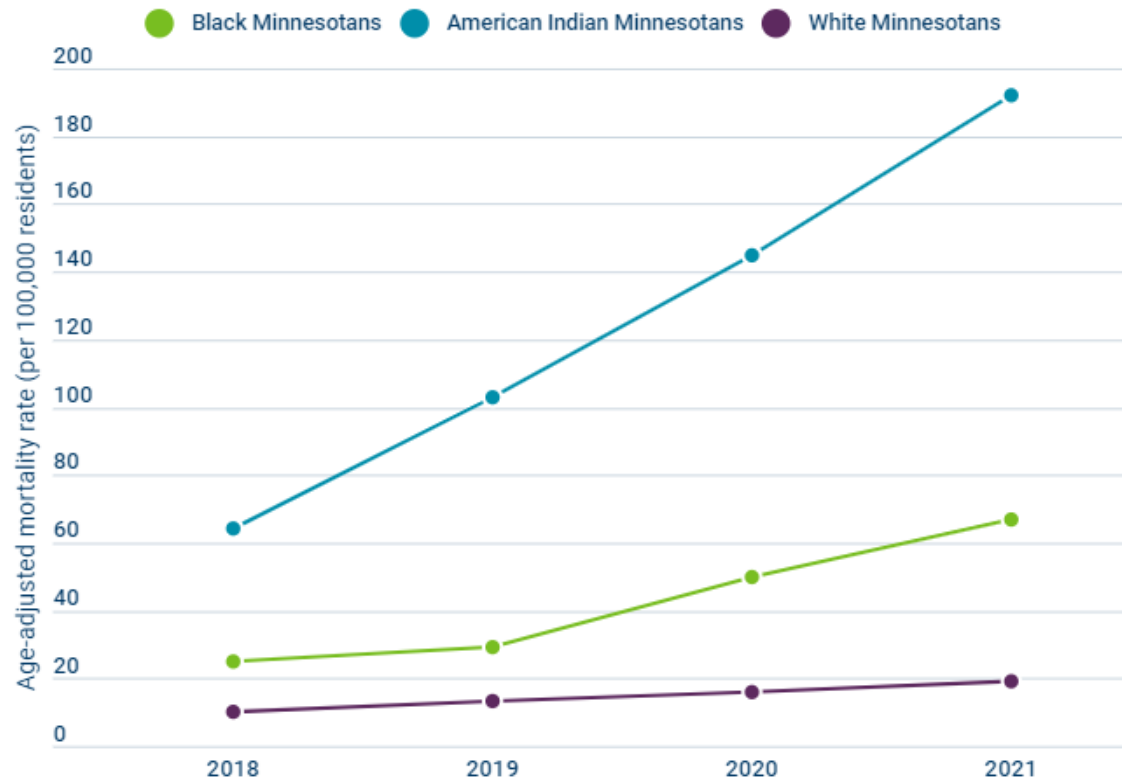
# MINNESOTA SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER - COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE



Bringing Minnesotans together to create a more equitable and impactful SUD system for recovery.

# MINNESOTA SUD DISPARITIES

In 2021, American Indian Minnesotans were ten times as likely to die from a drug overdose than white Minnesotans. Black Minnesotans were more than three times as likely to die from drug overdose than white Minnesotans.



Download data

Source: Minnesota Department of Health Minnesota death certificates



# MN SUD SYSTEM DISPARITIES IDENTIFIED

Individuals with lived experience reported traumatic experiences in treatment facilities, who were not adequately trained to provide competent and sensitive care related to cultural practices, gender, or sexual identity. Gaps included:

1

Lack of culturally competent and sensitive care (particularly in rural areas) for youth and adults

3

Lack of tribal representation

5

Lack of gender specific care for youth and adults

2

High numbers of underserved populations (e.g., veterans, seniors, LGBTQ+, Hispanic, African American, Tribal, etc.)

4

Extended program wait times (particularly for culturally competent programs)

6

Lack of funding for culturally competent programs or increased competition for single funding sources

## MN COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE – SUD SYSTEM DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS

Ensure that systems of care are inclusive of programs and services which address co-occurring disorders and improve treatment outcomes.

Enhance culturally competent and gender-specific care by contracting with community-based agencies that are successfully providing expert care to these populations.

Develop and fund more programs that allow parents to care for their children while receiving SUD care. Integrating parenting skills and family reunification strategies into SUD treatment has demonstrated promising outcomes and enhanced engagement.

Using the Collective Impact approach, Minnesota should fund backbone agencies that may apply for and manage grants, bill Medicaid, and track and monitor outcomes for small agencies with limited capacity. Collective Impact Forum. What Is Collective Impact? Available at: <https://collectiveimpactforum.org/what-is-collective-impact/>.



# PROJECT PARTNERS



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Whitaker, II**  
*Senior Pastor*  
Mother African Union Church

# HEALTH EQUITY ADVANCEMENT PROJECT: ENGAGING NEW AND NONTRADITIONAL PARTNERS

The Delaware Division of Substance Abuse and Mental Health is focusing on **engaging new and non-traditional partners** in Delaware as part of the State Opioid Response. The Health Equity Advancement Project, launched in 2023, is comprised of **internal and external initiatives to address opioid-related inequities** across the State.



# ADDRESSING OPIOIDS IN DELAWARE PREVENTION, TREATMENT AND RECOVERY

- HMA has worked with Division of Substance Abuse and Mental Health (DSAMH) and its partners over the last several years to address opioid use disorder through **prevention, treatment, and recovery**.
  - Technical assistance to providers and other community-based organizations
  - Support to state-wide meetings and convenings
  - Implementation support
  - Data analytics
  - Strategy development
  - Research on EBP and best practices
  - Health Equity Advancement Project

# HEALTH EQUITY ADVANCEMENT PROJECT

VISION FOR AN EQUITABLE,  
ACCESSIBLE AND EFFECTIVE  
SYSTEM OF CARE FOR  
INDIVIDUALS AT RISK FOR SUD  
AND ACTIVELY STRUGGLING  
WITH SUD

## ENGAGING NEW AND NON-TRADITIONAL PARTNERS

### Mini-Grants

- Funded opportunities to **build awareness of disparities** (community health needs assessments and data analytics projects) and opportunities to **build knowledge and practice** (internal knowledge-building and CLAS standards implementation).

### Community Awareness Partnerships

- Non-monetary supports to design and execute **education and awareness campaigns**.

### State-Wide Summit

- Two-day event with **thought leaders**, interactive **networking with grantees and community partners**, and workshops with **impactful community-based organizations and leaders** who are addressing the impact of opioids in their communities.

# COMMUNITY AWARENESS PARTNERSHIPS AMPLIFYING THE VOICES OF KEY MESSENGERS

## GOAL

Engage trusted organizations and individuals who are integral members of BIPOC communities across Delaware who may not be able to meet all eligibility criteria to receive federal funds.

# COMMUNITY AWARENESS PARTNERSHIP AMPLIFYING THE VOICES OF KEY MESSENGERS

## APPROACH

- Resource key individuals and community groups and organizations to **amplify their voices and expand their reach** through non-monetary supports.
- Provide **technical assistance and communication** resources to community-based organizations to execute public awareness campaigns aimed at spreading awareness and **reducing stigma** surrounding opioid use disorder within BIPOC communities of Delaware.



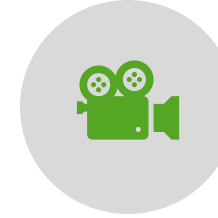
# COMMUNITY PARTNER ACTIVITIES



**PLEDGE  
DRIVES**



**LOCAL  
COMMUNITY  
EVENTS**



**PSA-STYLE  
VIDEO SERIES**



**EDUCATIONAL  
FLYER  
DEVELOPMENT**



**NARCAN  
TRAINING**



**SOCIAL MEDIA  
& MEDIA  
RELATIONS  
CAMPAIGNS**

## 2023 August Quarterly Grassroots Activities

- Opioid use disorder (OUD) awareness and anti-stigma materials were developed and shared at multiple events throughout the week's August Quarterly activities, reaching over 1000 event attendees.
  - Talking points shared at the pulpit by Dr. Whitaker
  - Evergreen anti-stigma flyer and video for social
  - Narcan training and distribution

## Interdenominational Ministries Action Council (IMAC) of Delaware Activities

- Dr. Whitaker addressed over 100 church leaders in DE at the November IMAC meeting, sharing OUD and anti-stigma information and encouraging them to take a pledge to spread the message to their congregations.
  - A resource guide for church leaders to take with them and present to individual congregations was developed, a pledge sheet was signed by meeting attendees, and OUD/anti-stigma flyers were provided for distribution across congregations.

## Reach Gospel Radio Activities

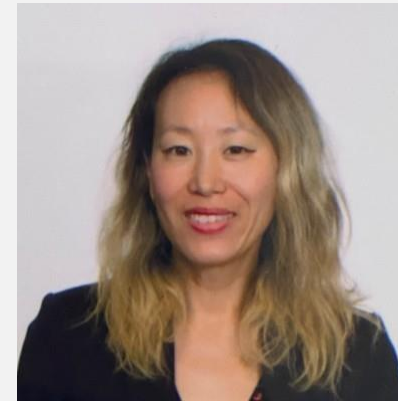
- OUD/anti-stigma radio reads were drafted for sharing on Reach Gospel Radio, a gospel radio station started in Wilmington, Delaware that is now broadcasted in 20 cities throughout the United States and Canada.



# PROJECT PARTNERS



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*Principal*  
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Los Angeles County Office  
of Child Protection

# BIRTH EQUITY: IMPLEMENTING PLANS OF SAFE CARE IN A HOSPITAL SETTING

The Los Angeles Office of Child Protection, LA Department of Children and Family Services, and HMA partnered with **four hospitals to develop workflows and data collection** to reduce involvement of CPS and increase support for substance exposed infants and their caregivers.

# LA COUNTY OFFICE OF CHILD PROTECTION

- The Office of Child Protection (OCP) was created by the LA County Board of Supervisors and the Chief Executive Office to **increase coordination, collaboration, and communication**
- The OCP leads **multiagency collaborations** with County departments and numerous key stakeholders in prevention, child safety, permanency, and wellbeing.
- OCP served as the **lead agency** in a state-funded learning collaborative, Effective Child Welfare and Justice Systems for Families Impacted by Opioid and Stimulant Use.
  - Develop **systemwide understanding and utilization** of Plans of Safe Care.

# WHY DEVELOP A PLAN OF SAFE CARE?

- Since the 1990s, federal law and state law require that counties maintain:
  - Policies and procedures addressing the **needs of infants prenatally exposed to substances**, including the development of a Plan of Safe Care (POSC)
  - Procedures for making **referrals to child welfare agencies** by healthcare providers when necessary
- California state laws are clear that **substance use in and of itself should not trigger a referral to a child welfare agency** unless there is an apparent child safety concern
- Healthcare providers should conduct a **newborn risk assessment** before consulting and/or making a referral to the child welfare agency

# LA COUNTY EFFORTS

LA County Stakeholders have:

- Developed draft protocol and workflow to *initiate the POSC process in healthcare/hospital settings*
- Identified the need to pilot the POSC process first before full implementation countywide

POSC is currently being piloted at LA County Department of Health Services' (DHS) Harbor-UCLA Medical Center, St. Francis Medical Center, and Adventist Health White Memorial Hospital; and will soon expand to DHC' Olive View-UCLA Medical Center.

# GOAL OF PLAN OF SAFE CARE



To ensure that pregnant people using substances and infants with prenatal substance exposure and their caregivers are **assessed for needs/strengths and referred/linked to community-based services.**



POSCs are **required** for substance-affected newborns but can be created prenatally as well – **identifying needs/strengths and supporting families as upstream as possible** is critical to increasing their protective factors and keeping children and families out of the child welfare system.



**This effort aligns with LA County's:**

- Mandated Supporting Initiative,
- Prevention & Promotion Systems Governing Committee, and
- Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA) Community Pathways goals

# TASKS OF THE PILOT PROGRAM

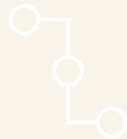
## Hospital Outreach and Education

Provide webinar training on Plans of Safe Care to 10 of the largest birthing hospitals in Los Angeles County.



## Pilot Workflows and Data Collection in Hospitals

Develop a Plan of Safe Care process to assess pregnant and parenting people using substances in hospital settings and link them to appropriate community-based services.



## Fiscal Sustainability Analysis

Produce a fiscal analysis report with key findings and recommendations to access potential revenue sources for sustainability.



## Best Practice

Apply best practices for engaging pregnant and parenting people struggling with substance use.



# QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION





# WHAT CAN WE DO FOR YOU?

Our depth and breadth of experience has helped an incredibly diverse range of healthcare industry leaders.

## Questions?



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