HEALI Meeting Notes

December 15th, 2021

**1115 Waiver Update**

* It is a Medicaid waiver that allowed NYS to have DISRIP and CBO planning grants which is how HEALI was created. There is talk about another 1115 Waiver which will further enhance the work HEALI is doing around the social determinants of health.
* CMS has reviewed the second concept paper the DOH has put forward and gave them approval to move forward with the application. However, CMS wants them to cut the budget to around $8 billion.
* After April 1st, 2022, NYS will put forward an application for public comment. HEALI will then convene to discuss the application.

**Maternal Morbidity and Mortality Prevention: Shanequa Levin and Dr. Martine Hackett**

* The United States is an outlier in maternal mortality compared to other developed nations.
  + United States ranks first with 17.4 deaths per 100,000 live births. France, which has the second highest rate or maternal mortality among developed nations, has 8.7 deaths for every 100,000 live births.
* Black women are disproportionately affected by maternal mortality.
  + 41 deaths per 100,000 live births for black women compared to 13 deaths per 100,000 live births for white women.
* Social/economic status is not the cause of this disparity.
  + Pregnancy related mortality rate for black women with a college degree is 5.2 times that of their white counterparts and is higher for back women with a college degree versus white women without a college degree.
* With respect to Long Island, many do not acknowledge this problem exists because the data is not widely talked out.
  + The maternal mortality rate in Nassau County is higher than that of all NYC boroughs except The Bronx.
* The United States ranks 22nd in the world for newborn survival.
  + Prematurity and low birthrate are the leading cause for infant mortality.
  + The percentage of preterm births for Suffolk County is greater than any of New York’s boroughs.
* Infant mortality based on adjacent zip codes:
  + Garden City has 0 infant deaths per 1000 births compared to Hempstead which is 4.1 deaths per 1000 births.
  + Uniondale has 5.1 deaths per 1000 births compared to East Meadow which has 2.6 deaths per 1000 births.
  + Roosevelt has 8.8 deaths per 1000 births compared to Merrick which has 1 death per 1000 births.
  + The zip codes with the highest percentage of infant mortality are the areas with a higher percentage of black residence.
* Maternal mortality and infant mortality are two of the most sensitive indicators of the health of an entire population because pregnant women and infants are some of the most vulnerable members of any society.
* The cause racism, not race.
  + This is due to the social conditions, quality of care and economic status.
* Strides made so far:
  + Provide training to residents and medical schools.
  + Helped created Nassau County Maternal Mortality Review Board.
  + Created survey to identify if transportation is a barrier to healthcare.
  + Garnered media coverage.
* Shanequa then led a discussion on how HEALI coalition members from a wide range of sectors can improve maternal health outcomes. To view notes from the discussion, [click here.](https://jamboard.google.com/d/1NL8K6OIJpFi1VnwVDH4pANn3onkbiCJ5ssUh-7cxv0I/viewer?f=4)
* Health Equity.
  + Advocacy:
    - Work on legislation, policy, education and mobilizing people to take action.
      * Currently working on transportation survey, Suffolk County Maternal Review Board.
  + Services:
    - Exploring the creation of a birth preparedness kit. This kit will eventually be given during the prenatal phase of pregnancy to help increase the chance of a healthy pregnancy and birth.
  + Research:
    - Support the task force by compiling reports, research preventive solutions and identify ways to implement the strategy.
* **The next HEALI meeting is Wednesday, January 19th at 10:00am.**