

Utah Women & Newborns Quality Collaborative (UWNQC)

2023 annual report

Thank you for being involved in UWNQC quality improvement projects as we celebrated our 10th anniversary in 2023. You and your teams helped to develop various community resources, such as the [Maternal Resource Guide \(English/Spanish\)](#). Community organizations led focus groups in the Black, Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander and Hispanic/Latino communities. We shared our progress with various audiences statewide and at the National Network of Perinatal Quality Collaboratives annual meeting. We have 5 new staff members including an outreach specialist, AIM coordinator, CDC public health associate, clinical consultant, and patient advocate. We received funding to implement 2 new Alliance for Innovation on Maternal Health (AIM) patient safety bundles over the next 4 years.

“Connection is the energy that is created between people when they feel seen, heard, and valued.” - Dr. Brene Brown

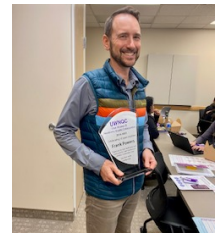
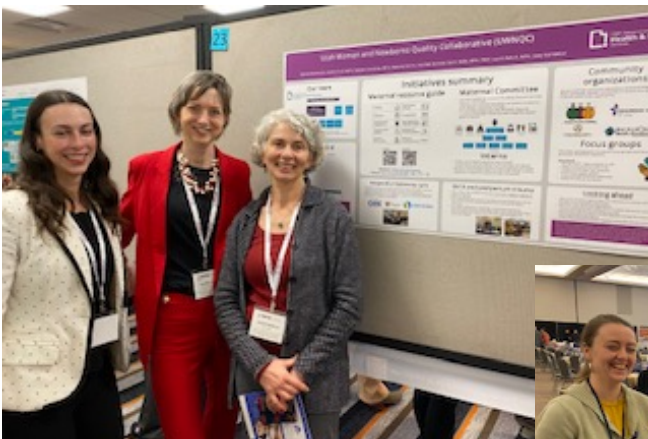
Thank you for connecting families to resources and for continuing to connect with your fellow committee members and community. You are seen, heard, and valued and I appreciate all your work in improving the health outcomes of Utah moms and families.

Angela Anderson, CNM, DNP, FACNM, UWNQC board chair
APP Director, Women’s Health, Intermountain Health

Utah Women and Newborn Quality Collaborative (UWNQC) is a statewide, multi-stakeholder network dedicated to improving perinatal health in the state.

Vision:
Save lives in Utah by improving perinatal health outcomes.

Mission:
Improve maternal and neonatal outcomes through collaborative efforts centered around quality improvement methodology and data sharing.



UWNQC committee highlights

Committee to improve maternal outcomes

The Maternal Committee launched the [Maternal Resource Guide](#) which features more than 900 free or low-cost resources across Utah. The guide is available online in English or Spanish. It includes various categories which offer information and resources for social drivers of health. Community Health Center, Inc. locations have begun training clinicians on the Maternal Resource Guide. Various community organizations presented to the committee including the Family Support Center and Doulas for U along with resources shared on lactation, congenital syphilis, and birth and postpartum trauma.

Committee chair: Frank Powers Email: fpowers@chc-ut.org

Committee to develop out-of-hospital birth resources

The committee continued to make progress developing online training modules to provide training for out-of-hospital providers and the emergency medical services community. Revisions and updates were made to the out-of-hospital birth report, with the goal of publishing data from 2016-2021 in 2024. Letters were sent to Utah birthing hospitals and birth centers with out-of-hospital resources and intrapartum maternal transfer data from 2019-2021. An online newsletter to the out-of-hospital birth community continues to share resources, communicate practice recommendations, and provide information on upcoming trainings and conferences. If you would like to receive the newsletter, email dearmidwife@utah.gov.

Committee chair: Erin Clark Email: erin.clark@imail.org

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Utah Women & Newborns Quality Collaborative

Committee to improve maternal mental health

The committee's vision is all childbearing individuals in Utah receive mental health education and screening during pregnancy and the postpartum period. We want every individual with perinatal mental health concerns to receive the most appropriate care, from the most appropriate healthcare professional, and within an appropriate, stage-based response time. The committee continued to share the [Maternal Mental Health Toolkit](#), which has resources for anyone working with perinatal parents and their children. The toolkit includes patient screening and referral resources, patient-focused handouts, provider resources for implementation, crisis-based resources, and supplemental screening instruments.

Thank you to Gwen Latendresse who served as our original committee chair, we appreciate her leadership and dedication. Our new chair is Jamie Hales, LCSW, PMH-C. Jade Chavez serves as the maternal mental health specialist at the Utah Department of Health and Human Services. She can be reached at jhchavez@utah.gov

Committee chair: Jamie Hales Email: jamie.hales@hsc.utah.edu

Committee to implement safety bundles

We applied for and received the Alliance for Innovation on Maternal Health (AIM) State Capacity Program federal grant from the Health Resources and Services Administration. UWNQC will be implementing 2 new AIM patient safety bundles during the four-year grant period. Patient safety bundles are a structured way of improving the process of care and patient outcomes. They are collections of evidence-informed best practices, developed by multidisciplinary experts, which address clinically-specific conditions in pregnant and postpartum people.

Our new AIM coordinator, Morgan Harris, will be leading the implementation of the AIM Perinatal Mental Health Conditions Patient Safety Bundle. Lauren Gimbel, MD will serve as our clinical director and share insights from implementing this safety bundle at the University of Utah. We are hosting a meeting April 18-19 to wrap-up the AIM Care for Pregnant and Postpartum People with Substance Use Disorder Patient Safety Bundle and kickoff the Perinatal Mental Health Conditions Patient Safety Bundle.

Committee chair: Morgan Harris Email: morganlh@utah.gov

CDC Perinatal Collaborative Agreement

We received funding to focus on reducing maternal health disparities. Sophie Silverstone is leading the 5-year project and has collaborated with the Maternal Committee for the launch of the online Maternal Resource Guide. Community-based organizations partnered with us to conduct focus groups in the Black, Hispanic/Latino, and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander communities, and a support group for moms in the Hispanic/Latina community. Sophie presented project progress at the National Network of Perinatal Quality Collaboratives annual meeting.

Our patient advocate, Desiree Ferrin, is working on a birth and postpartum trauma needs assessment and conducting interviews with patients and providers.

Connect with Sophie Silverstone: ssilverstone@utah.gov

Maternal resource guide
Guía de recursos para madres

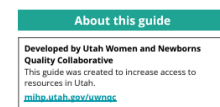


Connect to the help you need

An online guide to services that support women who are pregnant, postpartum, and parenting. This features over 900 free or low cost resources across Utah including:

Housing		Food, formula & diapers	
Healthcare		Transportation	
Mental health & substance use		Legal assistance & integration support	
Intimate partner violence		Employment & financial assistance	
Midwife & doula services		Childcare & parenting resources	

To get started, scan a QR code...



English:



Español:



or visit <https://mha.utah.gov/maternal-resource-guide-utah>

UWNQC highlights

1 Presentation at the National Network of Perinatal Quality Collaboratives annual meeting

1 Alliance for Innovation on Maternal Health agreement awarded

3 Maternal focus groups conducted by community organizations

5 New staff members

33 Hospitals voted for the new AIM patient safety bundle

1 Maternal Mental Health Support group for the Latina community

2 Respectful maternity care pilots launched at Utah hospitals

4 Interns

9 PRONTO packs (birth simulation kits) delivered to hospitals

200+ Volunteers participated in UWNQC committees

UWNQC member spotlight

Suzy Zahler, RN



Suzy Zahler is the Women's and Newborn Manager at Intermountain Health Sanpete Valley Hospital. She has been involved in the Out-of-Hospital Birth Committee and also is a member of the Perinatal Mortality Review Committee. She is a winner of the Leader of Excellence Award for creating a healing experience at Intermountain Health.

Suzy has 3 kids and 8 grandchildren. She enjoys playing pickleball and being at the beach. Thank you Suzy for your dedication to providing outstanding care to families in rural Utah.

Thank you to our partners!



We'd love to hear your ideas and suggestions.

Send an email to UWNQC@utah.gov or call (801) 273-2865.