

Ramsey County Birth Equity Community Council

February 2017

S A I N T P A U L – R A M S E Y C O U N T Y P U B L I C H E A L T H

Call to Action

Saint Paul - Ramsey County Public Health is seeking to form an authentic community engaged collaborative that is data-driven, engages in racial healing activities and is focused on public health strategies to reduce inequities in birth outcomes. We recognize that data is not only by way of numerical information but also within the individual experiences of those impacted.

Background

Despite improvements in birth outcomes, Ramsey County continues to face disparities especially among U.S.-born Black women and men. Although the American Indian population in Ramsey County is small, disparities are evident in county and statewide data. The reduction of birth and other inequities in the social determinants of health, child welfare, corrections, and other systems, has become a strong priority of Saint Paul - Ramsey County Public Health, and of Ramsey County as a whole.

Between 2010-2013, 7.2% of all babies born in Ramsey County were low birthweight. The rate for U.S.-born Black women was 13.8%-over two times higher than the White rate of 6.0%. The rate for foreign-born Black women was 6.6%. A similar pattern holds for prematurity. The overall rate from 2010 to 2013 was 10.1%. For White women, it was 9.0%. For U.S.-born Black women the rate was 14.5%, and for foreign born Black women, 9.9%. The infant mortality rate for US-born Black women in the county was 2.5 times higher than for White women in that time period.

In the same time period the prematurity rate for American Indian women in Ramsey County was 12.6%. Statewide the infant mortality rate for non-Hispanic American Indians was 2.6 times higher than for non-Hispanic Whites.

Ramsey County Birth Equity Community Council uses the “**Ready-Set-Go**” Framework, a nationally recognized CityMatCH model for implementing community-wide health and healing strategies. This 3 step model is broken down into three phases to represent the 3-year duration of the Institute for Equity in Birth Outcomes and strategies which will assist in addressing the birth outcome disparities in our community. Content will cover the following areas:

PHASE I:	PHASE II:	PHASE III:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evaluate current capacity Build community coalition Look at local data-*PPOR Analysis Narrow down priorities Begin collecting data to tell Ramsey County community’s story <p>*PPOR-Perinatal Periods of Risk</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Select *Up/Downstream Create logic model & evaluation plans <p>*Upstream: Initiative that includes strategy aimed at addressing the known driver(s) of inequities in birth outcomes (e.g., poverty, racism, racial healing, prenatal care, etc.)</p> <p>*Downstream: Initiative that includes strategy aimed at producing measurable improvements in local inequities in birth outcomes. This strategy(ies) will be one that leads to measurable changes in the 2-year span of the Equity Institute.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement intervention strategies Evaluate impact of interventions Quality Improvement Disseminate findings

Group Charter and Composition

Ramsey County Birth Equity Community Council will provide input and feedback on linkages, policies, outreach, and community needs. A particular area of emphasis will be for the members to identify and engage missing stakeholders, including community members across disciplines and sectors.

Meeting Frequency and Structure

Ramsey County Birth Equity Community Council has 2 meeting structures:

- 1. Ramsey County CityMatCH Team**

Meets via phone or in person 2nd Wed. of month. (Identified travel team members participate in an additional monthly CityMatCH TA calls, attends annual trainings and site visits from our national CityMatCH partners.)

- 2. Ramsey County Birth Equity Community Council**

Engages our local community in a quarterly dialogue series aimed at action planning and prioritizing steps to move this initiative forward at a time/location that meets the needs of the members.

Compensation

Participation is voluntary, with no financial compensation. However, light snacks may be provided, as well as training travel assistance to 3 travel team members.

More Information

If you have questions or would like to participate in the Ramsey County Birth Equity Community Council, please contact:

Tamiko Ralston

651-266-1585

tamiko.ralston@co.ramsey.mn.us

Contact:

Tamiko Ralston, PHN Clinician

Family Health Division

Community Outreach & Family Wellness

tamiko.ralston@co.ramsey.mn.us

651-266-1585