

IAMHP QUARTERLY

ILLINOIS ASSOCIATION OF MEDICAID HEALTH PLANS NEWSLETTER

Information resource for Medicaid members, health plans and providers



A NOTE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Every mother and every infant deserve high-quality maternity care. Yet, the United States persists in having the highest maternal and infant mortality rates among comparable developed countries.

No comprehensive discussion can take place without emphasizing the importance of eliminating the racial disparities in maternal and infant mortality. African American women across the income spectrum are dying from preventable pregnancy-related complications.

We are proud to partner with Everthrive IL this quarter to start a targeted conversation to encourage policy solutions to eliminate barriers and improve maternal and infant health.

Stay tuned for our Winter issue for highlights from our second annual conference and remember November is Diabetes Awareness Month.

Warmest regards,

Samantha Olds Frey

IN THIS ISSUE

- Maternal & Infant Health Disparities
- Fall Health Reminder
- IAMHP's APEX Awards & 2nd Annual Conference

CHECK OUT OUR PODCAST

Sam Says

Podcast Series

Tune in for the latest information Medicaid Managed Care in Illinois

<https://iamhp.podbean.com/>

Send us your topic ideas

We want our readers to value this newsletter, so please send us your thoughts at support@iamhp.org



MATERNAL & INFANT HEALTH DISPARITIES

In the U.S. infant mortality and maternal mortality go hand and hand. In 2019, the U.S. is one of only 13 countries where infant and maternal mortality rates are worse than they were 25 years ago.

U.S. stats:

- For every 1,000 babies born, six died during their first year
- Over 700 African American, Native American and Alaskan Native women die from preventable pregnancy related causes

Illinois stats:

- An African American baby is 3 times more likely to die than their White counterparts.
- Non-Hispanic black women are six times more likely to die of a pregnancy-related condition than White women.

While access to health insurance, quality, medical care, public benefits, and social supports are important factors, it's critical to understand the root causes; systemic racism, lack of healthcare-coordination, mental illness and substance abuse. To begin to combat these issues we must ensure that policies, programs, and communities support the health of all women and infants regardless of their skin color.

Organizations like EverThrive IL are committed to the health of women, children, and families. To improve care for high-risk women they are partnering with communities, medical and social service providers to deploy peer educators in non-traditional spaces to educate women of childbearing age about pre- and inter-conception health, maternal mortality and morbidity.

Other initiatives include participating in:

- *Leading the Campaign to Save our Mothers and Babies* is a network of organizations that uses a collective impact approach to address persistent racial disparities in infant and maternal health outcomes

- Illinois Department of Public Health's (IDHP) Maternal Mortality Review and the Fetal Infant Mortality Review committees to assess the underlying factors causing maternal and infant deaths
- IDPH's Preconception and Inter-conception Collaborative Improvement and Innovation Network (COIIN) to identify strategies and develop resources to improve women's pre- and inter-conception health, including updating and disseminating the Illinois Healthy Choices, Healthy Futures Perinatal Education Toolkit
- Illinois' Safe Sleep COIIN, led by SIDS of Illinois, which promotes safe sleep practices

During this year's IAMHP Annual Conference Dr. Damon Arnold, Medical Director at BlueCross BlueShield of Illinois presented on Maternal Morbidity: Moving the Needle on Health Outcomes. To learn more about our work visit www.iamhp.net and find targeted resources addressing maternal and infant mortality, please visit: www.everthriveil.org

FALL HEALTH REMINDER

While the hottest days of summer are winding down, IAMHP reminds you stay healthy by following these simple tips:

- Stay hydrated
- Use broad spectrum (UVA/UVB) sunscreen daily
- Be mindful of mosquitoes, especially near water, at dawn and at dusk
- Stay cool and in the shade
- Sleep well
- Disconnect and put down the phone ... enjoy your family and friends

DISCLAIMER: This material is presented for informational and educational purposes only. This information does not constitute medical advice and is not intended to be a substitute for professional medical advice.

IAMHP hosted its first annual APEX Awards this year during the IAMHP Annual conference.

We started the APEX awards to recognize innovative and outstanding contributions of Illinois' Medicaid health plans to increasing efficiency, patient care, lowering costs and increasing services to Medicaid members.

We hope by recognizing and sharing winners it will drive important conversations across the entire Medicaid Managed Care program and help members adopt best practices throughout the state.

Health Plans were judged in five areas:

1. Business and Operational Performance
2. Member Quality & Engagement Initiative
3. Provider Relations & Engagement
4. Collaborate Community Health Initiative
5. Health Plan/Provider Partnership



THE 2019 APEX AWARD WINNERS

Business and Operational Performance

Provider Relations & Engagement

Collaborate Community Health Initiative

Health Plan/Provider Partnership

Member Quality & Engagement Initiative

Winner: NextLevel Health

Winner: IlliniCare

Winner: BCBS

Winner: IlliniCare

Winner: Meridian



HIGHLIGHTS FROM IAMHP'S SECOND ANNUAL CONFERENCE

This year's annual conference was held September 24-26 at the Tinley Park Convention Center and welcomed over 350 attendees.

The goal of this event is to bring together Medicaid Providers, Managed Care Organizations, State Legislators and Business Vendors to actively discuss ways to bring value to Medicaid members across the state.

We conducted over 40 breakout sessions in six areas:

- Operations & Billing
- Best Practices
- Healthcare Social Determinants & Justice
- Quality and Care Coordination
- Transforming Healthcare
- Public Policy

Our general session highlights included a presentation from Dr. Damon Arnold, Medical Director at BCBSIL on Maternal Morbidity, panel with legislators; Greg Harris and Tom Demmer, a discussion with Theresa Eagleson, Illinois Medicaid Director and a panel with Healthcare Executives.

For more information visit www.iamhp.net