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Pennsylvania's Maternal Health Strategic Action Plan: Implementation through Action

*Presented to the Pennsylvania Maternal Health Collaborative
July 10, 2026*




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1

1



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Background

- The Healthy Moms, Vibrant Futures Pennsylvania Maternal Health Strategic Action Plan was introduced on March 31 after nearly two years of planning and development.
- The Plan focuses on five priorities and accompanying recommendations to address the ongoing maternal health crisis.
- The Perinatal Action Collaborative (PAC) – made possible by a HRSA grant to the Dept. of Health and administered by the Jewish HealthCare Foundation – is the implementation arm of the Plan.
- The PAC is comprised of 160+ maternal health advocates, stakeholders, providers, and people with lived experience who volunteer their time to review priority recommendation and determine the actionable strategies needed to accomplish goals.
- The HRSA grant also provides funding to various entities capable of implementing and tracking the actionable strategies.
- The PAC is implementing year 1 strategies and reviewing years 2-5.

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2

2


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Healthy Moms, Vibrant Futures

MATERNAL HEALTH STRATEGIC ACTION PLAN

Ensuring the health and safety of mothers and their babies is a top priority of the Shapiro Administration and is the overarching goal of the Commonwealth's Maternal Health Strategic Action Plan: Healthy Moms, Vibrant Futures.



"Pennsylvania supports its mothers with a 5-year maternal health strategic action plan," WVIA, May 2026

"Inside the Shapiro administration's 'absolutely ambitious' plan to prevent maternal deaths," Spotlight PA, April 2026

"Combating stubbornly high Black maternal mortality with 'Justice and Joy' in Pa.," Pennsylvania Capital-Star, April 2-26

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3

3

Priorities


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1. Improve perinatal health outcomes by supporting access to and utilization of high-quality perinatal care.
2. Improve detection of behavioral health risks during pregnancy and postpartum and improve referrals and uptake of treatment and supports.
3. Strengthen maternity care resources in rural communities and maternity deserts.
4. Increase awareness of and utilization of supports that address health-related social needs.
5. Build improved trust and better connections between patients and providers.



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4

4



5

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Action Plan – Perinatal Action Collaborative (PAC)

- **MHSP Priority Area:** Increasing Access to High-Quality Care
- **Recommendation:** Increase utilization of non-medical supportive services that can support greater cultural competency in perinatal care and improve health outcomes, like community health workers, peer services, and doulas by working with providers and payors to encourage greater partnership with and referrals to non-medical providers.
- **Actionable Strategies:** Improve Access to “Non-medical” supports
- **Lead:** Fabric Health
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6


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Action Plan – Perinatal Action Collaborative (PAC)

- **MHSP Priority Area:** Increasing Access to High-Quality Care
- **Recommendation:** Increase utilization of non-medical supportive services that can support greater cultural competency in perinatal care and improve health outcomes, like community health workers, peer services, and doulas by working with providers and payors to encourage greater partnership with and referrals to non-medical providers.
- **Actionable Strategies:** Improve Access to “Non-medical” supports
- **Lead:** Franklin Pediatrics
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7


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Action Plan – Perinatal Action Collaborative (PAC)

- **MHSP Priority Area:** Improving Rural Health and Maternity Care Deserts
- **Recommendation:** Collaborate with state agencies and other partners supporting rural healthcare development to leverage existing groups, venues and resources around rural health to assess available resources, determine needs, and work to create collaborative efforts in counties and regions and across payors to address lack of maternal care.
- **Actionable Strategies:** Expanding the Role of Pharmacists in Maternity Care
- **Lead:** University of Pittsburgh School of Pharmacy, with Pennsylvania Pharmacists Care Network
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8


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Action Plan – Perinatal Action Collaborative (PAC)

- **MHSP Priority Area:** Addressing Health Related Social Needs
- **Recommendation:** Explore and support existing policies and programs to improve housing and food security and access to transportation for pregnant and postpartum individuals and their families.
- **Actionable Strategies:** Improve connections between community-based organizations (CBOs) and managed care organizations (MCOs), to increase utilization of the PA Navigate service, to provide support to expand CBO services, and to improve HRSN screening tools.
- **Lead:** Numerous
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9


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Action Plan – Perinatal Action Collaborative (PAC)

- **Priority Area:** Expanding and Diversifying the Maternal Health Workforce
- **Recommendation:** Begin work to develop health care apprenticeship opportunities that focus on training underrepresented populations to expand the number of BIPOC midwives, doulas, community health workers, and home visitors to make maternal health care professions and paid training opportunities accessible.
- **Actionable Strategies:** Create a Doula Apprenticeship Toolkit
- **Lead:** PatientsRWaiting
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10



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More from the Perinatal Action Collaborative: Events Calendar

June 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
31	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	1	2	3	4

2026 Northeast Regional Maternal Health Coalition Seminar

Thursday, June 11th 2026 at 8:30 AM

Join this free event to learn about the State of Maternal Health in PA with Sara Goulet, Special Advisor to the Secretary, DHS and for updates on the Coalition's ongoing work from the 5 priority teams. This event will feature networking opportunities, vendor space, continuing education opportunities, and more!

Location:
Hilton Scranton & Conference Center

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11



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How to get involved

PAC <https://perinatalactioncollaborative.org/>

DHS Maternal Health
<https://www.pa.gov/agencies/dhs/programs-services/healthcare/maternal-health-strategic-action-plan>

DOH Infant and Child Health
<https://www.pa.gov/agencies/health/programs/maternal-health-and-infant-care>

Friday newsletter – sgoulet@pa.gov

7/12/2026
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12

12

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Q&A

7/12/2026

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13

13

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Thank you!

7/12/2026

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14

14