

Goals and Recommendations



Goal 1: All women are able to receive complete, high-quality preconception, prenatal, and postpartum care.

Recommendations

1. Expand postpartum Medicaid coverage for a full year.
2. Provide Medicaid and private insurance coverage to include doulas on the birthing team.
3. Increase the number of group prenatal care sites, such as Centering Pregnancy, by exploring payer strategies to incentivize practices to adopt such strategies.

Cross cutting: Implement communications strategy to educate providers about how women feel unheard during preconception, prenatal, and postpartum care, including issues related to maternal mental health.

Goal 2: All expecting and current parents are able to receive parenting supports that address comprehensive health, wellbeing, and development topics and are tailored to individual family needs.

Recommendations

1. Expand evidence-based targeted and universal home visiting strategies.
2. Implement Maternal Life360 for pregnant women and new mothers at birthing hospitals.
3. Increase pay for home visitors and improve service delivery by braiding existing funding sources.

Goal 3: Every family of infants and toddlers is able to receive social, developmental, and behavioral screening and referrals to needed health care and community supports.

Recommendations

1. Complete the regulatory process to implement evidence-based pediatric primary care models for early childhood, such as HealthySteps, and communicate changes to health care providers.
2. Expand evidence-based pediatric primary care models, such as HealthySteps, to more

practices, including family physician offices and rural sites.

3. Seek funding to implement process-improvement strategies to educate providers about how to ensure parents feel valued and heard in health care settings.

Cross Cutting: Implement communications strategy to educate providers about how to ensure parents feel valued and heard in health care settings.

Goal 4: Quality child care is affordable and accessible for all families.

Recommendations

1. Make child care more affordable for middle income families through tax credits directly to families and employer tax policies to be developed in collaboration with the business community.
2. Develop a more family-friendly system to help families learn about/access/apply for early childhood education programs (vouchers, ABC, Head Start, EIDT, etc.).
3. Ensure providers, including family child care homes, are financially viable:
 - a. Determine if reimbursement rates are covering the cost of quality care, and increase rates if needed.
 - b. Address state and local policies, regulations, zoning, permitting, and other structural barriers that prevent access to high-quality child care.
 - c. Pay vouchers in 12-month contracts based on enrollment vs. attendance.
 - d. Develop shared services for providers that address HR, accounting, insurance, etc.

Goal 5: All early childhood educators are well-prepared for the complexity of child development and receive commensurate compensation and benefits.

Recommendations

1. Improve wages and benefits for early childhood educators:
 - a. Maintain T.E.A.C.H. and WAGE\$ when ARPA funding expires.
 - b. Adopt the Unifying Framework for the Early Childhood Education profession.
 - c. Pay early childhood educators on par with public school teachers.
 - d. Include early childhood educators who work for public schools in the teacher retirement system.