Data Collection Process

Maternal Mortality

**Improve the sensitivity and timeliness of maternal death identification.**

- Link identified maternal death cases with birth, fetal death, and HDD to gain additional information
- Determine a mechanism for utilizing the raw year-to-date death file to identify maternal deaths closer to the date of maternal death
- Explore a process for healthcare facilities to report confirmed maternal deaths to the Department within 30 days
  - Collaborate with the Arizona Perinatal Trust (APT) through a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)/Data Sharing Agreement (DSA) on possible monthly reporting of maternal deaths in APT certified facilities
  - Consider utilizing and building onto existing reporting requirements of birthing facilities, either through the establishment of MOUs with individual facilities or the development of an accountable mandated process for facilities to report confirmed maternal deaths

**Strengthen and establish partnerships to facilitate a more efficient and comprehensive records acquisition.**

- Build relationships across the state to decrease cycle time from record release
  - Identify sites that result in records request delays and provide technical assistance, especially for Health Information Management and Medical Records staff responding to requests
  - Develop a communication campaign for hospitals and other agencies to better understand the purpose of the MMRC and their role in contributing information to investigating maternal deaths
  - Execute MOUs/DSAs with agencies and entities whose information can support the review process including but not limited to AHCCCS, Tribal Governments, DPS, DCS, as such
  - Provide technical assistance to third party or centrally hosted record companies, including identifying a contact person at these entities to assist in timely responses to records requests
  - Emphasize that records for the MMRP are non-discoverable and are de-identified for MMRC use
- Identify additional datasets that can be queried for additional information
- Explore the possibility of data sharing via Health Information Exchange platforms, including the use of key indicators to identify cases of maternal death within the Health Information Exchange
- Develop screening questions for medical examiners to assist in identification of maternal deaths
- Invite staff members from Arizona Vital Records to the MMRC

**Encourage development and implementation of protocols that streamline the record collection process, particularly for pregnancy-related deaths.**

- Develop a protocol to enforce the time requirement for records request
- Increase real-time availability of records, especially of pregnancy-related deaths

**Develop and implement ongoing quality assurance methods and evaluation of all MMRC processes.**

- Establish a quality assurance plan with scheduled tasks to be followed on a routine basis by MMRP staff
- Create a checklist to be completed for each maternal death to coordinate the data process
- Reach out to CDC for technical assistance
  - CDC gave technical assistance to the Department on the MMR process in December 2018, and will provide ongoing technical assistance through 2020 as part of the CDC Preventing Maternal Deaths grant award
- Department was recently awarded the Maternal Mortality Review Grant that begins September 30, 2019, which includes technical assistance
Severe Maternal Morbidity

- Identify ways to partner with Indian Health Service (IHS), Tribal or 638 hospital facilities, and other non-HDD reporting facilities to better understand SMM in their sites
- Follow CDC and/or AIM guidance on the assessment of SMM cases
- Identify maternal mortality cases in the HDD dataset to support the review process
- Conduct routine surveillance of SMM twice a year, including the use of key indicators to identify cases in the Health Information Exchange
- Assess data quality by reporting facility to identify inconsistencies in reporting and code usage
- Produce annual data quality report on HDD data used to identify SMM cases
- Consider identification of SMM cases during pregnancy and postpartum, including re-admissions and admissions to the ICU or behavioral health care
- Coordinate and develop MOUs/DSAs with Managed Care Organizations or other content management systems to access core severe maternal morbidity metrics (transfusions and ICU admissions)

Maternal Mortality Review Committee Composition & Governance

Construct governing guidelines to maximize committee structure and best practices.
- Develop governing bylaws for the MMRC to conduct business in a consistent manner:
  - Identify best practices regarding MMRC membership and participation
  - Develop formal committee tenure and term-limits with appropriate rotation of members
  - Draft clear definitions of committee roles
- Consider enacting a separate statute for Maternal Mortality Reviews
- Request technical assistance from the CDC on Committee Composition

Cultivate the diversity of the committee to introduce additional perspectives in case review and discussion.
- Increase participation of non-clinical MMRC members in the MMRC meeting to enhance the diversity of the MMRC
- Develop a recruitment strategy to address gaps and strengthen MMRC composition, including behavioral health, social service agencies, DCS, clinical specialists, community organizations, Indigenous communities, survivors, and representatives of various geographical, racial, and socioeconomic populations
- Design a formal process for inviting recruited MMRC members to apply

Provide member trainings to bolster confidence in their roles and improve the consistency of the review process.
- Develop a process manual of the MMRC
- Conduct standardized trainings for MMRC members, including new member orientation and annual refresher trainings for all MMRC members, to highlight the roles and responsibilities of committee members and an overview of the MMRC process
- Distribute additional training materials and resources to members to aid in MMRC review process

Develop and implement clear expectations of committee member attendance and participation.
- Develop and enforce guidelines and attendance expectations for participating organizations and members
- Document commitment by each MMRC member to the mission, vision, and expectations of the MMRC via a participation oath
- Identify challenges to participating in MMRC meetings
- Eliminate barriers to MMRC meeting attendance (webinar, reimbursement of travel, quarterly all day meetings)
- Develop an application process for MMRC membership
Maternal Mortality Review Process

Adopt strategies to improve the efficiency of case reviews, including prioritization of pregnancy-related deaths.

- Prioritize review of pregnancy-related deaths to be closer to when death occurred
- Pre-review cases by a committee subgroup
  - Consider developing a specialized subcommittees to review violence related deaths, accidental deaths, substance use related deaths, and pregnancy related deaths to later present findings to MMRC for final approval
- Preemptively organize the review of cases by pregnancy associated vs. pregnancy related and causes of death to increase efficiency in the reviews
- Develop quick reference guides and tools to facilitate the review process
- Complete abstracts well in advance of MMRC meetings and upload to MMRIA for MMRC members to access de-identified case narratives electronically in preparation of the MMRC meeting

Implement continuous quality improvement methods and process measures.

- Design and implement a quality improvement process to identify inefficiencies and produce timely solutions
- Incorporate components of the Arizona Management System into committee review for process standardization

Complete the hiring process for a full time clinical nurse abstractor to respond to questions from the MMRC for each case review.

Establish feedback mechanisms to capture thoughts, concerns, and ideas from committee members.

- Implement an evaluation with MMRC members feedback to produce practical recommendations
- Internally log missed opportunities and inefficiencies identified in the review process for continuous quality improvement
- Conduct an environmental scan to assess the needs of the MMRC and the MMRC members (meeting times, location, barriers)

Follow CDC guidance and the Review to Action model to produce actionable recommendations.

- Request technical assistance from CDC to the MMRC on developing actionable recommendations
- Follow the Review to Action template to develop case-specific recommendations
- Review recommendations from others states’ MMRCs for training

Propose a sustainability plan to support the MMRC that includes staffing (program manager, abstractor, epidemiologist), training, and other items necessary for the MMRC to continue functioning long-term.
Development of a Dissemination and Implementation Plan for MMRC
Findings and Recommendations

Expand infrastructure and establish protocols for timely data analysis and generation of MMRC reports.

- Identify an epidemiologist or data analyst dedicated for data quality review, analysis, and report writing
- Develop a data subcommittee to oversee routine reporting of data from the MMRC
- Develop a standard reporting schedule of data and recommendations from the MMRC
- Develop and publish data dashboards with state-level aggregate process metrics on MMRC activities and recommendations for prevention of maternal deaths, according to the reporting schedule
- Update the maternal mortality landing webpage to report on current MMRC activities
- Develop and publish data dashboards with preliminary data on year to date reviewed cases
- Receive technical assistance from the CDC on the use of MMRIA to query timely reports
- Update the Department’s Maternal Mortality and Severe Maternal Morbidity landing pages with up to date information
- Produce an updated report that includes data from deaths that have occurred since 2016
- Include stratification of data by race and ethnicity, as well as by mode of delivery in the upcoming report

Develop a plan and disseminate MMRC data and findings to stakeholders and partners.

- Develop a dissemination plan with MMRC input
- Develop and implement a robust public awareness strategy on maternal mortality and morbidity, the MMRC, it's activities, findings, and actionable recommendations
- Provide information and materials to MMRC internal and external stakeholders to share with the populations they serve, including a resource with clinical solutions and other recommendations
- Partner with home visitation and other service providers to provide information about maternal mortality and MMRC recommendations
- Present findings at stakeholder meetings
- Develop and launch a CEUs course for clinical and non-clinical providers on recommendations from the MMRC
- Conduct a statewide summit on severe maternal morbidity and mortality
- Develop a campaign for the general public about maternal death and morbidity

Create actionable recommendations to direct next steps and result in data to action.

- Utilize the MMRIA committee decision forms to identify case-specific recommendations by the MMRC
- Provide technical assistance to the MMRC on the Policy, Systems, and Environment (PSE) approach to result in actionable data driven recommendations that improve maternal health outcomes
- Analyze recommendations by levels of contributing factors and cause of death to allow for strategies and intervention design
- Explore opportunities for ongoing assessment of activities based on MMRC findings
  - Consider establishing an implementation committee to monitor and track data to action activities
  - Consider developing a strategic action plan with community stakeholders