

Data Collection Process

Maternal Mortality

1 Improve the sensitivity and timeliness of maternal death identification.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Severe Maternal Morbidity

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

Maternal Mortality Review Committee Composition & Governance

54 **Construct governing guidelines to maximize committee structure and best practices.**

- 55 • Develop governing bylaws for the MMRC to conduct business in a consistent manner:
 - 56 ○ Identify best practices regarding MMRC membership and participation
 - 57 ○ Develop formal committee tenure and term-limits with appropriate rotation of members
 - 58 ○ Draft clear definitions of committee roles
- 59 • Consider enacting a separate statute for Maternal Mortality Reviews
- 60 • Request technical assistance from the CDC on Committee Composition

61 **Cultivate the diversity of the committee to introduce additional perspectives in case review and discussion.**

- 62 • Increase participation of non-clinical MMRC members in the MMRC meeting to enhance the diversity of the
- 63 MMRC
- 64 • Develop a recruitment strategy to address gaps and strengthen MMRC composition, including behavioral
- 65 health, social service agencies, DCS, clinical specialists, community organizations, Indigenous communities,
- 66 survivors, and representatives of various geographical, racial, and socioeconomic populations
- 67 • Design a formal process for inviting recruited MMRC members to apply

68 **Provide member trainings to bolster confidence in their roles and improve the**

69 **consistency of the review process.**

- 70 • Develop a process manual of the MMRC
- 71 • Conduct standardized trainings for MMRC members, including new member orientation and annual
- 72 refresher trainings for all MMRC members, to highlight the roles and responsibilities of committee members
- 73 and an overview of the MMRC process
- 74 • Distribute additional training materials and resources to members to aid in MMRC review process

75 **Develop and implement clear expectations of committee member attendance and participation.**

- 76 • Develop and enforce guidelines and attendance expectations for participating organizations and members
- 77 • Document commitment by each MMRC member to the mission, vision, and expectations of the MMRC via a
- 78 participation oath
- 79 • Identify challenges to participating in MMRC meetings
- 80 • Eliminate barriers to MMRC meeting attendance (webinar, reimbursement of travel, quarterly all day
- 81 meetings)
- 82 • Develop an application process for MMRC membership

Maternal Mortality Review Process

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

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

95 **Implement continuous quality improvement methods and process measures.**

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

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

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

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

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

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

111 **Propose a sustainability plan to support the MMRC that includes staffing (program manager, abstractor,**
112 **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

- 113 **Expand infrastructure and establish protocols for timely data analysis and generation of MMRC reports.**
- 114 • Identify an epidemiologist or data analyst dedicated for data quality review, analysis, and report writing
 - 115 • Develop a data subcommittee to oversee routine reporting of data from the MMRC
 - 116 • Develop a standard reporting schedule of data and recommendations from the MMRC
 - 117 • Develop and publish data dashboards with state-level aggregate process metrics on MMRC activities and
 - 118 recommendations for prevention of maternal deaths, according to the reporting schedule
 - 119 • Update the maternal mortality landing webpage to report on current MMRC activities
 - 120 • Develop and publish data dashboards with preliminary data on year to date reviewed cases
 - 121 • Receive technical assistance from the CDC on the use of MMRIA to query timely reports
 - 122 • Update the Department's Maternal Mortality and Severe Maternal Morbidity landing pages with up to date
 - 123 information
 - 124 • Produce an updated report that includes data from deaths that have occurred since 2016
 - 125 • Include stratification of data by race and ethnicity, as well as by mode of delivery in the upcoming report
- 126 **Develop a plan and disseminate MMRC data and findings to stakeholders and partners.**
- 127 • Develop a dissemination plan with MMRC input
 - 128 • Develop and implement a robust public awareness strategy on maternal mortality and morbidity, the
 - 129 MMRC, it's activities, findings, and actionable recommendations
 - 130 • Provide information and materials to MMRC internal and external stakeholders to share with the
 - 131 populations they serve, including a resource with clinical solutions and other recommendations
 - 132 • Partner with home visitation and other service providers to provide information about maternal mortality
 - 133 and MMRC recommendations
 - 134 • Present findings at stakeholder meetings
 - 135 • Develop and launch a CEUs course for clinical and non-clinical providers on recommendations from the
 - 136 MMRC
 - 137 • Conduct a statewide summit on severe maternal morbidity and mortality
 - 138 • Develop a campaign for the general public about maternal death and morbidity
- 139 **Create actionable recommendations to direct next steps and result in data to action.**
- 140 • Utilize the MMRIA committee decision forms to identify case-specific recommendations by the MMRC
 - 141 • Provide technical assistance to the MMRC on the Policy, Systems, and Environment (PSE) approach to result
 - 142 in actionable data driven recommendations that improve maternal health outcomes
 - 143 • Analyze recommendations by levels of contributing factors and cause of death to allow for strategies and
 - 144 intervention design
 - 145 • Explore opportunities for ongoing assessment of activities based on MMRC findings
 - 146 ○ Consider establishing an implementation committee to monitor and track data to action activities
 - 147 ○ Consider developing a strategic action plan with community stakeholders