



Preventing Maternal Death

Recommendations from the Alaska Maternal Child Death Review Committee (MCDR) *Issue 2 March 2021*

Recommendations for system improvement:

- Create a public health system for home pregnancy care and [extended postnatal support](#).
- Ensure integrated and accessible [behavioral health & substance use services](#).
- Provide [advanced care coordination](#) and [continuity of care](#) for pregnant and postpartum people traveling to and from [rural communities](#).

Care

Communication

- Ensure [provider to provider communication](#) and [care coordination](#) at all points of care transfer.
- [Increase resources](#), supports and outreach to prevent and respond to [intimate partner violence](#).
- Provide patients with [culturally responsive](#), effective, prenatal and postnatal communication utilizing [teach-back](#) and health literacy best practice.

Safety

- Create policies to ensure [adequate law enforcement in rural areas](#).
- Increase the educational materials on [polysubstance use](#) and [opioid treatment](#) including medications available.
- Increase AED (automated external defibrillator) [availability in public places](#).

A circle of care and support for every mother.

"Ilutughsaghluki
qamagluki aghnat
ama kayusighluki
pellilgusighaqluki ama
nanglekeqaqluki."*

*St. Lawrence Island
Yupik Translation*

* Translation into St Lawrence Island Yupik (spoken in the Native Villages of Gambell and Savoonga) courtesy of Rosemary Akeya, Norton Sound Health Corporation, Siberian Yupik translator and former health aide.

The MCDR committee reviewed all Alaska maternal deaths (16) that occurred in 2017 and 2018. MCDR defines a maternal death as any death within one year of pregnancy due to any cause. The MCDR Committee indicated, for all 16 deaths, a change in prevention, policy and/or education could have helped increase the chance for a more positive outcome.

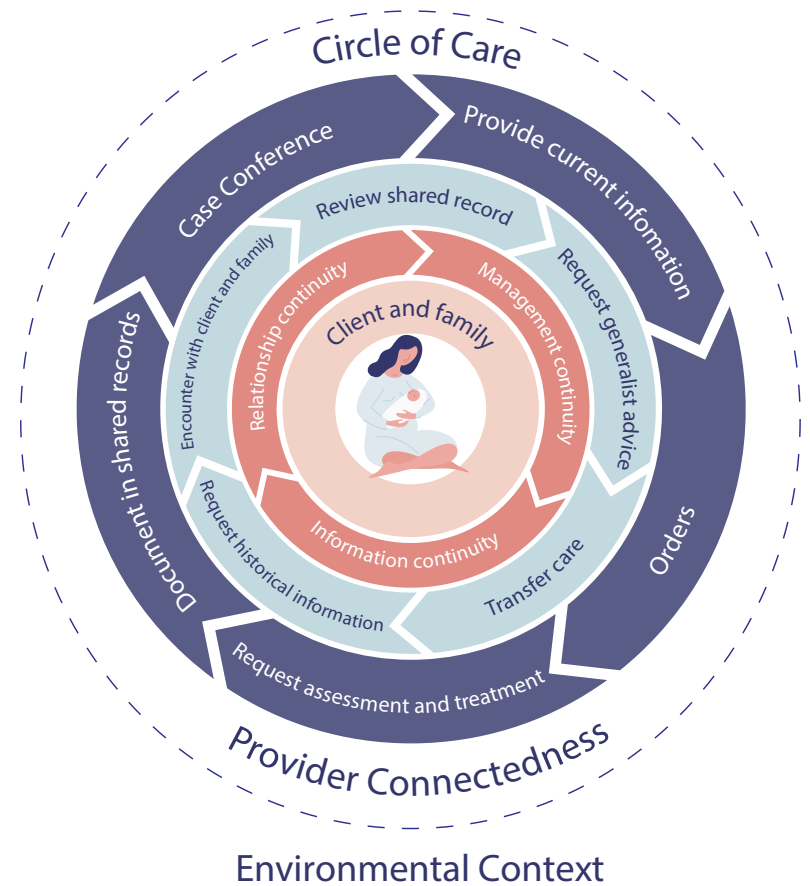


"All advocacy is, at its core,
an exercise in empathy."

- Samantha Power

Resources & References:

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4. [Maternal and obstetric care challenges in rural America policy brief and recommendations to the secretary May 2020](#)
5. van Stenus CMV, Poorthuis MB, Boere-Boonekamp MM, Need A. [Through the professional's eyes: transfers of care during pregnancy, childbirth and the postpartum period](#). BMC Health Serv Res. 2020;20(1):108. Published 2020 Feb 11. doi:10.1186/s12913-020-4941-0
6. [SBAR Tool: Situation-Background-Assessment-Recommendation, Institute for Healthcare Improvement. Cambridge, Massachusetts, USA](#)
7. [Team STEPPS](#) Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality
8. [Intimate Partner Violence Committee Opinion Number 518](#) February 2012, American College of Obstetrics and Gynecologists
9. [Intimate Partner Violence Screening Fact Sheet and Resources](#), Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality
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11. [Health Literacy Universal Precautions Toolkit, 2nd Edition, Use the Teach-Back Method: Tool #5](#), Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality.
12. [Study: Mom's Low Health Literacy Puts Herself and Her Newborn at Risk](#) — Prenatal care should address social determinants of health, expert says. February 7, 2020 MedPage Today



*Extended [continuity of care model](#) by Price and Lau

13. [Attorney General William P. Barr Announces Emergency Funding to Address Public Safety Crisis in Rural Alaska](#), Friday June 28, 2019 The United States Department of Justice Office of Public Affairs
14. [Polysubstance Use in Pregnancy](#) Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
15. [Resources on Opioid Use During Pregnancy for Pregnant Women and Families](#) Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
16. [Public Access Defibrillation \(PAD\) State Law Fact Sheet](#) -To increase out-of-hospital-cardiac-arrests (OHCA) survival rates, public access defibrillation (PAD) programs can use interventions that ensure AEDs are immediately accessible when needed. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Division for Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention