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ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON INFANT  
AND MATERNAL MORTALITY (ACIMM)

Preconception/Interconception Health Workgroup Meeting

Health Resources and Service Administration Building  
5600 Fishers Lane  
Rockville, MD 20857

Thursday, June 27, 2024  
1:15 p.m. 2:45 p.m.

1 00:08:07:17 - 00:08:33:16  
2 Joy Neyhart  
3 Hi. You're sounding garbled.  
4  
5 00:08:33:18 - 00:08:41:13  
6 Vanessa Lee  
7 My computer is muted, and I didn't join the, this -- the audio?  
8 I think. Is it any better?  
9  
10 00:08:41:15 - 00:08:42:19  
11 Marya Zlatnik  
12 Yeah. That's better.  
13  
14 00:08:42:21 - 00:08:43:22  
15 Vanessa Lee  
16 Oh, it is better. Okay.  
17  
18 00:08:43:22 - 00:08:45:23  
19 Janice Bell  
20 It's better.  
21  
22 00:08:46:00 - 00:08:47:09  
23 Joy Neyhart  
24 No.  
25  
26 00:08:47:11 - 00:08:49:01  
27 Phyllis Sharps

1 Not getting any.  
2  
3 00:08:49:03 - 00:08:51:07  
4 Joy Neyhart  
5 Yeah, I'm getting feedback from Phyllis.  
6  
7 00:08:51:09 - 00:09:08:15  
8 Vanessa Lee  
9 Well, you have to mute your computer speakers again. And then  
10 use the table mic.  
11  
12 00:09:08:17 - 00:09:10:12  
13 Phyllis Sharps  
14 Hello? Is this better? Are you able to--  
15  
16 00:09:10:12 - 00:09:12:22  
17 Joy Neyhart  
18 Oh, much better. Yeah. That's awesome.  
19  
20 00:09:12:24 - 00:09:23:07  
21 Phyllis Sharps  
22 Okay. I think we can get started. And maybe, we can go around  
23 and introduce who's here, and.  
24  
25 00:09:25:14 - 00:09:27:13  
26 Joy Neyhart  
27 Let me turn on my camera.  
28

1 00:09:27:15 - 00:10:02:17

2 Phyllis Sharps

3 And I actually, in the wee, wee hours of last night had a  
4 brainstorm idea. So I just put some discussion points on there -  
5 - they are by no means recommendations, but kind of, where I  
6 think we might -- I think that could be discussions starters.  
7 Let me put it that way. So I'm Phyllis Sharps. I am a nurse by  
8 background, perinatal clinical nurse specialist, and have worked  
9 with, pregnant women and violence prevention against pregnant  
10 women.

11

12 00:10:02:19 - 00:10:11:17

13 Phyllis Sharps

14 I am a professor emerita from Johns Hopkins University School of  
15 Nursing. And Joy is -- take it away.

16

17 00:10:11:19 - 00:10:36:16

18 Joy Neyhart

19 Hi. Thank you. Phyllis. I am Joy Neyhart, I'm a pediatrician who  
20 has been practicing in Juneau, Alaska. I practiced there for 24  
21 years, 22 years in a small independent practice which served  
22 everyone in the community. I did not limit -- I had no limit for  
23 patients that were insured by state Medicaid, or CHIP.

24

25 00:10:36:16 - 00:11:09:15

26 Joy Neyhart

27 And I also saw kids from the local tribal community. And then  
28 for the last two years of my work in Juneau, Alaska, I worked  
29 for the tribal health entity there, which is Southeast Alaska  
30 Regional Health Consortium. As of March, I am now, doing part-  
31 time locum tenent coverage, mostly in Montana, but I do maintain  
32 a license in Alaska, Wyoming, Hawaii, and now New Mexico.

33

1 00:11:09:17 - 00:11:39:19

2 Joy Neyhart

3 I will be beginning a master's in public health program through  
4 the University of Washington starting in the fall. And that's an  
5 18 month program. My main interests are, of course, as a  
6 pediatrician, you know, kids, but also, the specific things that  
7 I've worked on with my time in Alaska are I participated on the  
8 Maternal Child Death Review Committee.

9

10 00:11:39:19 - 00:12:12:01

11 Joy Neyhart

12 So -- and I'm still actually participating in that. I have a  
13 meeting tomorrow. and then I also was instrumental in the plans  
14 of safe care, which morphed into the Hello Baby program in  
15 Juneau, Alaska. And that was a program designed to be offered to  
16 every family, every birthing family. and the goal for that was  
17 to decrease the number of children who have to have any kind of  
18 Office of Children Services intervention.

19

20 00:12:12:03 - 00:12:40:00

21 Joy Neyhart

22 So, you know, specifically, like parents -- mothers with  
23 Substance Use Disorder. You know, the goal was to get them  
24 connected with every possible service that would facilitate them  
25 not being, you know, the child not being removed from their  
26 care. And that, so that program is still going and that was  
27 federal dollars were coming in through the Office of Children's  
28 Services into this program.

29

30 00:12:40:02 - 00:13:12:16

31 Joy Neyhart

32 I have not anywhere near the extensive administrative and  
33 academic experience as Bill as who -- I aspire to that, I'm a  
34 clinician first and foremost and I don't have again, don't have

1 the understanding of recommendations and technical stuff. I have  
2 a big picture view. And so I will do my best to be to  
3 participate with this endeavor.

4

5 00:13:12:18 - 00:13:26:19

6 Joy Neyhart

7 Also, I wanted to let you guys know Doctor Slotnick, one of our  
8 new appointed committee members plans to join us after she  
9 finishes hospital rounds, so that's really exciting. Thank you.

10

11 00:13:26:21 - 00:13:40:18

12 Phyllis Sharps

13 Let's see. I'm just going to go. Excuse me. I'm going to go on  
14 how people are on my screen. It's like jeopardy. So the next box  
15 I see is Kyra Betts. Thank you for joining us, Kyra.

16

17 00:13:40:20 - 00:14:17:02

18 Kyra Betts

19 So, like you said, my name is Kyra. I am the Policy and Advocacy  
20 Manager at Generate Health. I am -- what I'm now saying is that  
21 I am an educator by trade. I am a policy manager by pure  
22 manifestation. And I'm also a doula by pure passion. I have a  
23 bachelor's in sociology, and I have two masters, one in adult  
24 education, another in human services.

25

26 00:14:17:04 - 00:14:42:03

27 Kyra Betts

28 I am all things mom, baby. I transitioned into this work four  
29 years ago from being a corporate level trainer at a major  
30 hospital system in Missouri. And I saw things, heard things,  
31 felt things that made me feel like women and infants needed more  
32 support, specifically black women, infants needed more support.  
33 And so I quit my wonderful job, and I became a doula.

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00:14:42:03 - 00:15:03:24

Kyra Betts

And, from there, I just realized that all of the changes that I thought that I could make as a doula, we're only going to come through changes in policy and legislation. So that is what I'm working on. And it's quite an interesting landscape, being in that space in Missouri because I'm one of the few black women.

00:15:04:01 - 00:15:29:14

Kyra Betts

Well, I'm one of the only black women, in that space. And so, I continue to navigate this space, as best as I can. Always centering the voice of community and those with lived experience, primarily. So that is me. I'm also a mom, and I have two kids, but you might hear in the background if they get out of control.

00:15:29:16 - 00:15:44:00

Phyllis Sharps

Yeah, luckily those days are over for me. But always the minute I got on the phone. So, I think it's Doctor Romeo. Romero?

00:15:46:16 - 00:16:19:06

Liza Romero

Hi, I'm Liza Romero, I'm OB navigator at Optimize Healthcare, which is located in Bridgeport, Connecticut. We have another site in Stamford, Connecticut. My position was created a little bit over a year ago. And through that time, I have just developed an ever-greater passion for moms and babies as well. I partnered with Read to Grow to provide books for expecting moms.

1 00:16:19:08 - 00:16:51:10

2 Liza Romero

3 I have managed to get those in French Creole, Portuguese, and  
4 Spanish, and I'm just excited to learn and to be able to bring  
5 back to my community because, we do serve a lot of undocumented  
6 patients that may not have access to care. And so helping  
7 navigate and listening to the story earlier just brung me back  
8 to another mom who lost her baby.

9

10 00:16:51:12 - 00:17:23:18

11 Liza Romero

12 Undocumented, had no resources, and just shut down. She wouldn't  
13 talk to me. We followed up, but again, the access to care. She  
14 had no reliable phone service and so, although I tried to  
15 schedule PCP appointments, acupuncture, everything that I was  
16 able to, I haven't heard from her because, again, no phone  
17 access. So I'm just happy to be here to learn and be able to  
18 bring back to my community.

19

20 00:17:23:20 - 00:17:30:01

21 Phyllis Sharps

22 Okay, I see Deb Wagler, do you want to introduce yourself?

23

24 00:17:30:02 - 00:17:49:24

25 Deb Wagler

26 Hello everyone. I'm a colleague of Vanessa's. I also work in the  
27 Child Health Bureau in the Division of State Community Health.  
28 We are the ones who support the Maternal and Child Health  
29 Flexible block grants in each state and jurisdiction. Welcome.  
30 Happy to be here.

31

32 00:17:50:01 - 00:17:55:20



1 Phyllis Sharps  
2 Sofia Stetkiewicz Okay.  
3  
4 00:17:55:22 - 00:18:02:22  
5 Sophie Stetkiewicz  
6 I'm Sophie Stetkiewicz. I'm a contractor for HRSA. I'm just  
7 going to be taking notes on you guys's conversation today.  
8  
9 00:18:02:24 - 00:18:09:16  
10 Phyllis Sharps  
11 Okay. Okay. Kelley Bowden.  
12  
13 00:18:09:18 - 00:18:41:18  
14 Kelley Bowden  
15 Hi, everyone. I'm Kelley Bowden, and I'm -- my original first  
16 half of my career was working in, newborn intensive care unit  
17 for almost 20 years as a nurse and nurse practitioner and moved  
18 to, working for our Title V block grant as a statewide outreach  
19 educator. And working in the NICU, I got very interested in  
20 prevention, and the possibilities of the work that could be done  
21 in the prevention aspect.  
22  
23 00:18:41:20 - 00:18:56:20  
24 Kelley Bowden  
25 I'm currently consulting with our State Maternal Mortality  
26 Review Committee, and often finding that some -- least one of  
27 our recommendations is around preconception and interconception  
28 health. So that's why I'm here today.  
29  
30 00:18:56:22 - 00:19:10:03  
31 Phyllis Sharps

1 Oh good. So we definitely want to hear that. Sarah Wright?  
2  
3 00:19:10:05 - 00:19:22:03  
4 Phyllis Sharps  
5 Sarah if you're talking you're on mute.  
6  
7 00:19:26:08 - 00:19:32:14  
8 Phyllis Sharps  
9 We will come back. Maybe she's just listening, anyway.  
10  
11 00:19:32:16 - 00:19:40:13  
12 Sarah Wright  
13 Apologies. I stepped away for just a moment. Of course, that's  
14 when I called. Of course, that's how it works.  
15  
16 00:19:40:17 - 00:19:42:20  
17 Phyllis Sharps  
18 Yeah, we were just doing a little introduction.  
19  
20 00:19:42:21 - 00:20:08:00  
21 Sarah Wright  
22 Okay. So hi all, I'm Sarah Wright. I am on the maternal and  
23 women's health team at HRSA. I am a project officer for --  
24 currently four state, MHI states and eight in capacity states.  
25 And I'm also the program lead for that program. And just for  
26 background, preconception health is super important to me. And  
27 really like, I don't know, a soft spot in my heart.  
28  
29 00:20:08:00 - 00:20:24:24

1 Sarah Wright

2 I worked at the March of Dimes for almost five years as like my  
3 second job ever. And we had a special project that was focused  
4 on preconception health. And so it's really been kind of a  
5 passion project for me since.

6

7 00:20:25:01 - 00:20:29:03

8 Phyllis Sharps

9 And I see...

10

11 00:20:29:05 - 00:20:39:22

12 Phyllis Sharps

13 A telephone number, I don't know if that's 201303. 636831.

14

15 00:20:39:24 - 00:21:12:10

16 Janice Bell

17 Hi, hi. I'm the phone. I'm sorry. I have to be on my phone. My  
18 name is Janice Bell, and I have a background in maternal child  
19 labor and delivery over 20 years. I am also a faculty, and many  
20 of my students, out of CUNY in New York. And I've been finding  
21 many of my students being interested in going into labor and  
22 delivery, women's health, and I -- this is my first time at HRSA  
23 you know, for this type of setting, in this type of setting.

24

25 00:21:12:12 - 00:21:24:05

26 Janice Bell

27 So I'm hoping to learn and offer whatever I can to contribute.  
28 So thank you for having me.

29

30 00:21:24:07 - 00:21:54:24

31 Phyllis Sharps

1 Okay. So, you know, I think, many folks heard about the  
2 background of the work our committee has done. our work group  
3 has done over the past 6 or 7 months. And we are at the point  
4 where we are to begin to think about recommendations. And  
5 typically what happens is each committee -- so I call, the  
6 committee under Miss Pettiford.

7

8 00:21:54:24 - 00:22:43:03

9 Phyllis Sharps

10 Under Belinda will make a recommendation to the secretary. And  
11 so, as you heard early in this morning that this morning there  
12 are three subgroups and all are looking at issues related to  
13 that, but also with the frame of addressing the crisis in the  
14 Black maternal health birthing space. So we are looking at  
15 preconceptional interconception care and as I talked about earlier  
16 this morning, we've listened to a lot, a lot, a lot and there --  
17 and I think as we've listened and learned, there are issues that  
18 cut across all of the of the other two workgroups, social  
19 drivers of health and the rural health issues.

20

21 00:22:43:03 - 00:23:33:22

22 Phyllis Sharps

23 And I'm going to let you all maybe react to some of what you've  
24 heard, but one of the things that I keep that that's resonating  
25 with me, that we keep hearing a lot are there are workforce  
26 issues. And I think both in terms of diversity and race, I love  
27 this race concordant care, but also, I think diversity of  
28 providers that we need to be able to expand the perinatal health  
29 team to include doulas, midwives, nurse practitioners and that,  
30 you know, maybe OB/GYN physicians are not necessarily the team  
31 captains, that there needs to be a much broader behavioral  
32 health and that kind of thing.

33

34 00:23:33:22 - 00:23:54:19

35 Phyllis Sharps

1 So in this space of looking at prenatal, I'm sorry,  
2 preconception and interconception care, it seems to me that we,  
3 we also are hearing that we need to be able to integrate that  
4 care in every space, birthing people, people who are thinking  
5 about birth or who just came out of being birth.

6

7 00:23:55:05 - 00:24:18:18

8 Phyllis Sharps

9 And other providers need to be prepared to do the work. And so,  
10 diversity, both in the race and ethnicity of providers, but  
11 diversity in the number of people and the kinds of people that  
12 can deliver the care.

13

14 00:24:18:20 - 00:24:50:09

15 Phyllis Sharps

16 I've also heard consistently that it needs to be more, looking  
17 across a woman or I'm saying woman, but for a birthing -- a  
18 potentially birthing person. the life span. So, you know, as an  
19 adolescent, maybe when you're thinking about it, you're, you  
20 know, there's a different, look. And, when you're a young adult  
21 and then, you know, as you get older, thinking about what -- you  
22 know, that we ought to be thinking more about reproductive  
23 health care and well-being and that, I mean, yes, contraception  
24 is important, and it's a big part of it.

25

26 00:24:50:15 - 00:25:28:15

27 Phyllis Sharps

28 But there are other aspects of the lifespan that you need  
29 guidance and information and access to resources. And we have  
30 women who are, or birthing people, who have chronic conditions,  
31 that will need some type of guidance about, how they manage  
32 fertility and reproductive health.

33

34 00:25:28:17 - 00:25:49:04

1 Phyllis Sharps

2 We also have a more diverse population in terms of gender and  
3 sexual identity that we also need to think about. And every time  
4 I, I've always, as a faculty person said in the maternal and  
5 child health department. So every time I say something about  
6 men, they literally tar and feather me.

7

8 00:25:50:22 - 00:26:27:07

9 Phyllis Sharps

10 But there are other players in the field. And so I, you know, I  
11 think that that is part of our challenge also. And how do we  
12 evaluate, preconception interconception care. It's more than  
13 just, you know, having a placement of a device or the number of  
14 prescriptions that

15 were written or who's, you know, taking pills or patches or  
16 that kind of thing that we need to also think about the process.

17

18 00:26:27:09 - 00:26:52:18

19 Phyllis Sharps

20 Do we have people think -- we talk about birth plans, but maybe  
21 there needs to be a reproductive health plan. So when are you  
22 thinking about it? You know, what are your desires around that.  
23 And you know, and -- also what would a well woman reproductive  
24 health visit look like? What are their key elements that we  
25 should think about?

26

27 00:26:52:20 - 00:27:19:04

28 Phyllis Sharps

29 So, you know, my background is, I'm also, violence against  
30 women. So I'm always going to ask about relationships because I  
31 know that makes a difference on how you're able to use, or not  
32 use a contraceptive method if you've thought about that. Or you  
33 may not have the same freedom to make decisions about how you  
34 enter into sexual activity.

1

2 00:27:19:04 - 00:27:55:01

3 Phyllis Sharps

4 So, anyway, I think I'd like to hear a little bit from each of  
5 you on maybe some thoughts or things that are resonating with  
6 you. And then I have put together a few bullet points, that are  
7 very broad, but might start the discussion on where we need to  
8 be. So part of what we eventually will have to do or think about  
9 doing is we have a worksheet, and we are to write down, you  
10 know, I don't I think we have plenty of time to wordsmith.

11

12 00:27:55:03 - 00:28:27:09

13 Phyllis Sharps

14 But ideas for record recommendations and then the rationale. So  
15 are there promising practices? Are there research, studies or  
16 are there voices from the field or the community that would  
17 support us making the recommendation? I also think -- we did end  
18 up very impressed. I was at the tail end of Making Amends, which  
19 is the American Indian Native Alaskan report, which is very,  
20 very impressive.

21

22 00:28:27:11 - 00:28:53:08

23 Phyllis Sharps

24 But it had 59 recommendations. And I think -- well, I think that  
25 that's important because the need is great. I think we want to  
26 come up with maybe 3 or 4 that are really -- one actionable, but  
27 that people will look at and really pay attention. And there  
28 have been a number of recommendations across the, this advisory.  
29 You know, different groups have made them.

30

31 00:28:53:10 - 00:29:16:08

32 Phyllis Sharps

1 And so when we come up with some, we can go back and kind of  
2 fact check to make sure that we're, you know, if we're saying  
3 something that's already been said, maybe -- but we still think  
4 it's important. I think we can think about how to tweak it to  
5 make it even more relevant. So I'm going to stop talking and,  
6 and let folks -- maybe we'll spend about 20 minutes or so.

7

8 00:29:16:08 - 00:29:26:17

9 Phyllis Sharps

10 I think we finish about three, is that right, Vanessa?. I'm  
11 sorry, I did not let Vanessa introduce herself. Vanessa.

12

13 00:29:26:19 - 00:29:43:20

14 Vanessa Lee

15 It's okay. Just here in the background, like some of my  
16 colleagues, I'm Vanessa Lee. I'm the designated federal official  
17 for the committee, and I'm intended to help staff and support  
18 this particular work group. So happy to be with you all again  
19 this afternoon.

20

21 00:29:43:22 - 00:29:47:04

22 Vanessa Lee

23 Oh, and then I saw Marya did join, our new appointed.

24

25 00:29:47:07 - 00:29:54:14

26 Phyllis Sharps

27 Yeah. Marya is a new member of the committee. And do you want to  
28 introduce yourself?

29

30 00:29:54:16 - 00:30:32:01

31 Marya Zlatnik



1 Thank you. Hi, I'm Marya Zlatnik. I am a maternal fetal medicine  
2 doc in San Francisco. And I am interested in the environmental  
3 health space. So the ways in which the environment, toxins,  
4 climate change can impact fertility, reproduction, pregnancy,  
5 infant and childhood outcomes. And so I don't know if this is  
6 the best work group for me, but certainly I could see some  
7 themes that that would fit.

8

9 00:30:32:01 - 00:30:39:03

10 Marya Zlatnik

11 So, you know, I'm happy to help in any way I can. Thank you.

12

13 00:30:39:04 - 00:30:43:13

14 Phyllis Sharps

15 Thank you.

16

17 00:30:43:15 - 00:31:05:17

18 Phyllis Sharps

19 Okay, so we could maybe enter into some general discussions.  
20 Thoughts? From either what we've you've heard today or from your  
21 own experiences and working, that -- anyway, just.

22

23 00:31:05:19 - 00:31:08:23

24 Phyllis Sharps

25 Please feel free to share.

26

27 00:31:09:00 - 00:31:43:13

28 Joy Neyhart

29 This is Joy. I'm going to start off camera just because I'm  
30 eating my lunch and I don't want you see all the spinach in my  
31 teeth. So, we went through a lot of stuff in our committee

1 meetings over the past few months, especially with respect to  
2 the inequality. And I think if we're truly going to be bold,  
3 then our leading recommendation should be to do with  
4 infrastructure and the color of law.

5

6 00:31:43:13 - 00:32:15:22

7 Joy Neyhart

8 And why and how we can change things before you even start  
9 thinking about health care. So one amazing reference is Richard  
10 Rothstein book The Color of Law. And another was, talk, and  
11 probably several talks, by Doctor Daniel from, I think he's the  
12 Harvard, either law school or something to do with Harvard. But,  
13 you know, the social determinants, can't you?

14

15 00:32:16:01 - 00:32:41:23

16 Joy Neyhart

17 You can't get to the next steps until you fix the bottom. And  
18 so, I would hope that we can lead with a recommendation that  
19 precedes health and medical care.

20

21 00:32:42:00 - 00:32:47:20

22 Phyllis Sharps

23 What would that look like?

24

25 00:32:47:22 - 00:33:21:16

26 Joy Neyhart

27 Yeah. So one issue that -- is we learned, one thing we learned  
28 over the past few months is that Section 8 has never been fully  
29 and appropriately funded. So, you know, if you have a Section 8  
30 voucher, you can't find a place to live because of the way  
31 things -- the way, I'm not sure the exact details, but there are  
32 laws that prevent or there are, the Section 8 vouchers are not,  
33 that don't provide enough compensation or something.

1

2 00:33:21:21 - 00:33:49:16

3 Joy Neyhart

4 So things like that. The other thing is looking at, like when we  
5 did our tour of in Saint Louis, we, you know, there are places  
6 where there just isn't health care and there just isn't  
7 transportation. So if you're not, if you don't have a way to get  
8 to what might be available, you know that we can make a  
9 recommendation to improve that kind of infrastructure.

10

11 00:33:49:18 - 00:34:00:04

12 Joy Neyhart

13 So those are the things off the top of my head.

14

15 00:34:00:06 - 00:34:02:00

16 Vanessa Lee

17 Okay.

18

19 00:34:02:21 - 00:34:30:20

20 Kyra Betts

21 I do have some thoughts. I've been thinking a lot, as I'm in  
22 this work group as a subject matter expert, right? So, like,  
23 making sure that I'm using my expertise to kind of think about  
24 what I think that birthing people are missing in the  
25 preconception and interconception space. So I have some notes  
26 I've been randomly just writing down as things pop in my head  
27 over the last, like month and some since we met.

28

29 00:34:30:22 - 00:34:58:16

30 Kyra Betts

1 And one of the things that has time and time again popped out in  
2 my mind is adequate reproductive healthcare education from the,  
3 like, elementary up level. A thing that I've noticed throughout  
4 my time as a doula, even in my time as what I'm doing now, a lot  
5 of birthing people have no idea what is supposed to be  
6 happening, so they don't have an idea of when something is  
7 wrong.

8

9 00:34:58:18 - 00:35:29:01

10 Kyra Betts

11 They don't have an idea if they are getting inadequate  
12 healthcare because they don't even know what the reproductive  
13 process is supposed to be like. There's not enough information,  
14 just about the structure of the reproductive health system for  
15 male and female anatomy. There is also not enough, not hardly  
16 any information about the ways in which anatomy changes  
17 throughout pregnancy.

18

19 00:35:29:07 - 00:35:53:02

20 Kyra Betts

21 And I think that that leads to a lot of issues for people when  
22 they're pregnant because they don't know what to expect, and  
23 they haven't had an opportunity to spend their lifetime wrapping  
24 their mind around, if I choose to get pregnant, these are the  
25 things that will happen to me. These are things I should expect.  
26 This is what I should expect out of a care provider.

27

28 00:35:53:03 - 00:36:18:06

29 Kyra Betts

30 This is what I should expect for labor and delivery. This is,  
31 you know, and understanding, like appropriate risk factors for  
32 pregnancy. And then being able to have -- in the same way that  
33 we are able to think about, diet and exercise throughout our  
34 lives, we should be able to still have that same foundation for  
35 reproductive care.

1

2 00:36:18:06 - 00:36:54:23

3 Kyra Betts

4 And that goes for men and women. because partners should also  
5 know what to expect, because sometimes -- not sometimes, most of  
6 the time they are the only eyes that are on those individuals.  
7 So definitely, when thinking about preconception, I'm thinking  
8 really early in the preconception, even before puberty hits,  
9 understanding the reproductive health system, fully. Another  
10 item that I've put some thought into is family planning  
11 education.

12

13 00:36:55:00 - 00:37:27:24

14 Kyra Betts

15 There is a lot of information around birth control,  
16 contraception and family planning, but there's not nearly enough  
17 information about all of the other things that go into family  
18 planning. So you get into a lot of people getting unexpected  
19 back-to-back pregnancies because they think just because they  
20 are breastfeeding, they can't get pregnant. You get folks who  
21 don't understand how ovulation works, and how to be able to  
22 track their ovulation and on a calendar or an app or things like  
23 that.

24

25 00:37:28:01 - 00:37:53:08

26 Kyra Betts

27 And I think that that would help with the time frame in between  
28 pregnancy where people need to heal their bodies and allow time  
29 for their blood pressure to regulate, their blood sugars to  
30 regulate, their mind, to regulate, they need to know, because if  
31 you do not want birth control, which is a perfectly fine,  
32 selection you deserve to still know what else you can do.

33

34 00:37:53:10 - 00:38:24:05

1 Kyra Betts

2 And, the calendar method, family planning, I think is really  
3 critical there. And then I have a ton of notes, but my last  
4 thing that I will say is, risk appropriate care throughout life.  
5 And so, when we did the panel, open Charlotte mentioned risk  
6 appropriate care for pregnancy, which is valid, but risk  
7 appropriate care throughout life.

8

9 00:38:24:07 - 00:39:06:16

10 Kyra Betts

11 When we start to go to our well women's visit, it is a one size  
12 fits all, until you are pregnant. But if you have, type one  
13 diabetes, if you have some type of autoimmune disease, if you  
14 have other any other risk factors, having providers throughout  
15 your time that can help you think critically about your  
16 reproductive plans is super important because a lot of folks  
17 don't even meet with someone about that until they are already  
18 pregnant.

19

20 00:39:06:18 - 00:39:39:06

21 Kyra Betts

22 They don't get into a MFM doctor until they're already pregnant.  
23 And by that time, it's too late to make preparations. And so  
24 they're just making adjustments where they could have had the  
25 opportunity to make preparations. Especially when you're  
26 thinking about those who are of reproductive age and of  
27 reproductive intent. If you have lupus, you should -- your  
28 OB/GYN should be someone who knows what is it going to take for  
29 you to get and sustain a pregnancy?

30

31 00:39:39:11 - 00:39:48:20

32 Kyra Betts

1 And that should be a conversation long before you even get  
2 pregnant. So that's what I have for today. I'm not going to read  
3 the other 25 things.

4

5 00:39:49:24 - 00:39:52:06

6 Marya Zlatnik

7 I have taken a lot of time, thank you.

8

9 00:39:52:08 - 00:40:18:00

10 Phyllis Sharps

11 So, the first thing you talked about, what came to my mind is  
12 maybe there's -- we in the community clinics that I oversaw. We  
13 developed passports to health, and so there was one for women.  
14 There were one for men. There were, so I could see doing  
15 something like that for health, reproductive health across the  
16 lifespan.

17

18 00:40:18:00 - 00:40:44:13

19 Phyllis Sharps

20 So when you are, I don't know, early adolescence, you know, this  
21 is what's happening this is what, you know, when you get to be a  
22 teen. But anyway, or possibly, pulling together all of these  
23 existing resources and building a toolkit that would have  
24 different pieces of information, or all of the, you know, many  
25 of the conditions you talked about.

26

27 00:40:44:15 - 00:40:52:17

28 Phyllis Sharps

29 I'm going to go to -- thank you. Very thoughtful. I'm going to  
30 go to Kelly and then Deb, I see have their hands up.

31

32 00:40:52:19 - 00:41:30:15

1 Kelley Bowden

2 Great. Thanks. And thanks Kyra for going first because it gave  
3 me some ideas, too. So, in the -- our maternal mortality  
4 reviews, some of the things we're seeing are untreated or  
5 undertreated chronic health conditions. So things like, a woman  
6 with significant anxiety, when we partially treated, she had  
7 chronic hypertension that was labeled, white coat hypertension.

8

9 00:41:30:17 - 00:42:06:24

10 Kelley Bowden

11 And she had a poor pregnancy outcome that we thought was  
12 possibly preventable. We do see short interpregnancy intervals  
13 as well. We see a lack of screening for mental health, substance  
14 use disorder, and intimate partner violence. and in some cases,  
15 when there's positive results of failure to, to refer, to  
16 resources and treatment, failure to, to escalate care.

17

18 00:42:06:24 - 00:42:24:16

19 Kelley Bowden

20 So referrals to maternal fetal medicine. So that's not  
21 preconception or interconception, but just something that we've  
22 seen in a few cases. I'm happy to answer any questions.

23

24 00:42:24:18 - 00:42:56:08

25 Phyllis Sharps

26 So that makes me think too, that if we were to recommend  
27 something like a, well woman's visit, that those would be things  
28 to make sure that we're screening for the different conditions  
29 that, she has making -- you know, be alert if it's a woman with  
30 a chronic, health condition that, to be sure that she's, she's  
31 connected to the appropriate care, and that there is follow up.  
32 Deb.

33 00:43:00:15 - 00:43:21:12



1 Deb Wagler

2 I'll be really quick because I'm just echoing, one of the  
3 speakers from the first day, and I apologize. I can't remember  
4 her name. She was very intentional, very specific in her  
5 recommendations. I think her recommendations apply to both of  
6 our questions that you're posing today. She was saying, you  
7 know, when we thought about interconception, preconception.

8

9 00:43:21:12 - 00:43:48:16

10 Deb Wagler

11 We were talking about intention not enough. It really needs to  
12 be shifted so we're not tying everything to pregnancy, that  
13 we're focusing on reproductive and sexual well-being. And I know  
14 Vanessa can pull which person, but I think it just shifts how we  
15 look at the work that we need to do going forward in this group.  
16 And I thought it was very, very important.

17

18 00:43:48:18 - 00:43:53:09

19 Vanessa Lee

20 Deb, was it the Upstream speaker?

21

22 00:43:53:11 - 00:44:02:09

23 Deb Wagler

24 I think it's a doctor who is a midwife. So I, I think it was  
25 before Upstream? But we can figure it out online.

26

27 00:44:02:09 - 00:44:04:23

28 Vanessa Lee

29 Thank you.

30

31 00:44:04:23 - 00:44:12:19

1 Deb Wagler

2 But it was just very she had a very explicit recommendations and  
3 a pretty long list. And they just fit this group so well.

4

5 00:44:12:21 - 00:44:21:01

6 Phyllis Sharps

7 They might have been. I wonder if it was the midwife from  
8 Delaware?

9

10 00:44:21:03 - 00:44:25:06

11 Vanessa Lee

12 Yeah, maybe one of the public comments. Okay.

13

14 00:44:25:08 - 00:44:28:18

15 Phyllis Sharps

16 Okay. Anyone -- you have your card up Vanessa?

17

18 00:44:28:20 - 00:44:47:13

19 Vanessa Lee

20 Thank you. This is great. And I've been trying to take notes. I  
21 did just want the workgroup to be aware so that you don't you  
22 know, we would obviously let you know in advance, but to not  
23 send a recommendation or something that might already exist if  
24 you're really actually looking to improve something that HHS or  
25 HRSA is already doing.

26

27 00:44:47:13 - 00:45:12:06

28 Vanessa Lee

29 So HRSA does fund ACOG to do the Women's Preventive Services  
30 Initiative, which puts out the well women care guidelines. If

1 any of you like, especially Joy in Peds, you are familiar with  
2 Bright Futures. That's sort of, you know, the playbook for  
3 pediatricians to know what goes into a well-child visit at every  
4 age and stage. And so the idea behind with WPSI was to do that  
5 for the well woman visit as well.

6

7 00:45:12:06 - 00:45:33:02

8 Vanessa Lee

9 And so I put in the chat the most current 2024 well women chart  
10 that would go through what they currently recommend are all the  
11 screenings again based on life stage for a well woman visit so  
12 that you have access to that if you want to make specific  
13 improvements to that, to that program, because it is funded by  
14 us.

15

16 00:45:33:04 - 00:45:42:17

17 Vanessa Lee

18 And then if it would be helpful, we could have the project  
19 director give you a more of a better overview of their work, if  
20 that would be helpful. Yeah.

21

22 00:45:42:19 - 00:45:44

23 Phyllis Sharps

24 Maybe for the July meeting?

25

26 00:45:45-00:45:46

27 Vanessa Lee

28 Okay.

29 45:46-45:47

30 Yeah.

31

1 00:45:47:02 - 00:46:00:00

2 Phyllis Sharps

3 It maybe we can look -- I mean, does it, does it reach back to  
4 preteens, early puberty in that area?

5

6 00:46:00:00 - 00:46:06:15

7 Vanessa Lee

8 I would have to look for that in particular.

9

10 00:46:06:17 - 00:46:09:17

11 Marya Zlatnik

12 17 is the youngest age group.

13

14 00:46:09:19 - 00:46:43:16

15 Phyllis Sharps

16 Okay. You know, and it it's kind of like the -- I think the  
17 dilemma we get into is, what should be the screening age for  
18 mammographies when we know that there are certain groups, that  
19 40 is probably too late. And I think the same thing with  
20 adolescents. We have sexually active adolescents before 17. So,  
21 and they need to get -- and parents need to get messages about  
22 what to think about and that kind of thing.

23

24 00:46:43:18 - 00:47:03:23

25 Phyllis Sharps

26 Yeah. And I think the other thing is, when we think about making  
27 recommendations, we have to think about too, I think, and  
28 Vanessa can correct me, what is in the scope of HRSA to do? I  
29 mean, we certainly can recommend--

30

31 00:47:03:23 - 00:47:12:06

1 Vanessa Lee

2 Not HRSA, though. Right. It's all of HHS so under HHS is HRSA,  
3 CDC, we've got NIH who's actually here with us.

4

5 00:47:12:06 - 00:47:12:21

6 Phyllis Sharps

7 Okay.

8

9 00:47:12:23 - 00:47:33:09

10 Vanessa Lee

11 You know what I mean? It's all of those agencies and operating  
12 divisions under the Department of Health and Human Services,  
13 because your recommendations go to the Secretary of HHS And he  
14 will, you know, disperse them and say who is doing this and that  
15 and take these into consideration. So it even includes the Title  
16 X Office of Population Affairs.

17

18 00:47:33:09 - 00:47:34:00

19 Vanessa Lee

20 OPA.

21

22 00:47:34:06 - 00:47:34:15

23 Phyllis Sharps

24 Okay.

25

26 00:47:34:15 - 00:47:37:18

27 Vanessa Lee

28 They do the Title X funding, which is obviously part of it.

29

1 00:47:37:23 - 00:48:02:10

2 Phyllis Sharps

3 So then I think to put it into, actionable words, I'm thinking  
4 about Joy and infrastructure. it would be perhaps creating  
5 funding that removes barriers to access to care. So it could be  
6 transportation, it could be housing, it could be nutrition, you  
7 know, those kind of things.

8

9 00:48:02:12 - 00:48:17:07

10 Joy Neyhart

11 And I think, I'm not -- I don't have a very clear understanding  
12 of how HRSA can move the needle anywhere on infrastructure. But,  
13 so I guess that's what I need to dig into. Yeah.

14

15 00:48:17:09 - 00:48:22:05

16 Phyllis Sharps

17 I mark Myra, pronounce it one more time for me.

18

19 00:48:22:07 - 00:48:31:18

20 Marya Zlatnik

21 Marya. And I don't know if this, but people are familiar with  
22 Super Mario. It's said just the same. But Marya.

23

24 00:48:31:20 - 00:48:32:18

25 Phyllis Sharps

26 Thank you.

27

28 00:48:32:20 - 00:48:51:22

29 Marya Zlatnik

1 And you know, I'd like to claim my, like, superpowers. Although  
2 maybe Super Mario doesn't actually have superpowers. I'm not  
3 sure. And I'd like to welcome the newest member of this  
4 committee. Kyra's baby. So cute.

5

6 00:48:53:13 - 00:48:53:19

7 Joy Neyhart

8 Hi Kyra's baby!

9

10 00:48:53:19 - 00:48:57:04

11 Kyra Betts

12 He was crying so I had to run to get him. Say hi!

13

14 00:48:57:06 - 00:48:58:21

15 Joy Neyhart

16 Hey, aw.

17

18 00:49:01:12 - 00:49:33:01

19 Marya Zlatnik

20 Anyway, my question, I think, is maybe for Vanessa and Deb, you  
21 know, thinking about the Women's Preventative Services  
22 Initiative, you know, as an ACOG member, I will get in the mail  
23 the poster and I look at it and, you know, I'm thinking, well,  
24 is there anything new here? And, you know, I don't do any  
25 postmenopausal care, so there's some things that are not part of  
26 my practice anyway.

27

28 00:49:33:03 - 00:49:58:24

29 Marya Zlatnik

30 But for the most part, you know, it's all stuff that I know is  
31 super important. But if I have, you know, 15 minutes with

1 somebody who's pregnant and we have to cover, you know, what  
2 kind of ultrasound she needs, and, you know, the constipation or  
3 back pain she's having, you know, fitting everything else in is  
4 hard. And I guess that's not a well woman exam because she's  
5 pregnant.

6

7 00:49:58:24 - 00:50:41:10

8 Marya Zlatnik

9 But I'm wondering, does -- is there any way to sort of hardwire  
10 time reimbursement? You know, so that those things, so that  
11 it's, it's not so easy to just sort of gloss over and say, I'm  
12 going to do that next time because there's something else more  
13 urgent, like, is there a way that HHS can make that sort of  
14 every woman, every time? I know that's one of Jennie Conway's  
15 things that that she says.

16

17 00:50:41:12 - 00:51:02:04

18 Vanessa Lee

19 Yeah. So she was on that grant, Marya, I don't know if she still  
20 is or not, but, you know, she always spoke about WPSI and her  
21 work with that initiative when she was on this committee. I  
22 would have to get the program lead for WPSI and maybe the  
23 project officer. And I think we can arrange it probably for the  
24 July meeting, because I don't know the answer.

25

26 00:51:02:04 - 00:51:26:23

27 Vanessa Lee

28 I know there was an implementation arm to that work that maybe  
29 looked at some of the, you know, applications of the actual  
30 guidelines once the other side kind of put the evidence review  
31 and research into making something part of the well woman visit.  
32 There was supposed to be more of an implementation action group  
33 that then helped providers work through really how to take these  
34 into action.



1

2 00:51:27:00 - 00:51:35:08

3 Vanessa Lee

4 So yeah, I can definitely look into getting WPSI at your next  
5 workgroup meeting if that's something that would be helpful.

6

7 00:51:35:10 - 00:52:26:14

8 Kyra Betts

9 I was going to say, in addition to, like what Marya is talking  
10 about, we also -- can you guys hear me? Okay, it said my  
11 connection was unstable. Just making sure. I think that's also  
12 where, I know Phyllis was speaking about, diversifying the  
13 workforce, like adding doulas, community health workers,  
14 midwives all in their space because they can also handle some of  
15 that education and some of those questions in the intermediary,  
16 because when you think about the number of, pregnant individuals  
17 or, pre-, interconception individuals that an OB will see in a  
18 day, sometimes there's not time, but when doulas and midwives  
19 and community health workers

20

21 00:52:26:14 - 00:53:09:13

22 Kyra Betts

23 have appropriate access to like reimbursement through Medicaid  
24 or through insurance, then they're able to diversify the  
25 services that they can provide. And they can provide some help  
26 with like, swollen feet, achy back, and leave the high blood  
27 pressure, the gestational diabetes, that medical piece of it to  
28 the medical professionals while they help with those comfort  
29 items and also, like the resources I know someone else was  
30 speaking about, like the infrastructure community health workers  
31 are really critical in helping connect individuals with  
32 resources for housing and utilities and transportation.

33

34 00:53:09:15 - 00:53:38:17

1 Kyra Betts

2 But if they aren't able to access appropriate reimbursement,  
3 it's difficult to spread that career field, and make more people  
4 want to get into those career fields because they're not always  
5 sustainable for a long-term career. So just a piece, when you  
6 said that, it made me think about, you know, community health  
7 workers and doulas do that, but they can't do it because they  
8 don't make enough money.

9

10 00:53:38:19 - 00:53:47:22

11 Kyra Betts

12 And there's no way for a lot of bills in a lot of places to  
13 submit for reimbursement, from like Medicaid. Which is a big one  
14 right now in Missouri.

15

16 00:53:47:22 - 00:54:28:14

17 Phyllis Sharps

18 So, yeah, I don't know. I mean, I think that we -- there needs,  
19 that. To me, that's also part of infrastructure. We need to  
20 figure out ways to fund large, diverse teams. And there are  
21 better members on the team like the doulas, like the community  
22 health workers, the nurse practitioners, public health nurses  
23 that could do a lot of the education and counseling around  
24 preconception, interconception care, and do it well, I mean,  
25 they may need some additional training and we may need to have  
26 develop documentation to help record, you know, the process or  
27 that kind of thing.

28

29 00:54:28:14 - 00:54:41:07

30 Phyllis Sharps

31 But I think that that's, that's another way to diversify and  
32 grow the workforce. So it's not all concentrated in one or two  
33 providers. What were you going to say?

34

1 00:54:41:09 - 00:55:25:17

2 Nikita Schachterera

3 Yeah. So, I wasn't sure what I can or I can't say. So, one of  
4 the thoughts and I think, just to add on to what Marya, did I  
5 say it right? Marya, said in the sense of individuals with  
6 chronic conditions, that are in the preconception period. There  
7 seems to be sort of this unknown of who does the counseling  
8 around family planning, meaning not only family planning for  
9 prevention of expansion of family, but really talking about  
10 preconception care and what is the timing of pregnancy as  
11 opposed to just, you know, don't get pregnant.

12

13 00:55:25:19 - 00:55:55:09

14 Nikita Schachterera

15 But -- and I think it's important to say that it has to be  
16 something that's a shared responsibility across whomever sees  
17 that person to say, you're high risk, you should see XYZ for  
18 consultation. And it can be the primary care provider. It could  
19 be the doula, it could be the community health worker, etc. but  
20 identifying them early enough that these are high risk  
21 individuals that need to be connected to care and need to see  
22 somebody before they become pregnant.

23

24 00:55:55:11 - 00:56:23:13

25 Nikita Schachterera

26 Oh sorry. So I'm the new ex-officio for NICHD. I'm -- my name is  
27 Nikita Schachterera. I'm an OB/GYN by training, and, and I  
28 practiced for over 14 years in an academic arena before coming  
29 to NIH. And now I'm the Branch Chief for the Pregnancy and  
30 Perinatal Allergy branch at NICHD.

31

32 00:56:23:15 - 00:56:37:24

33 Phyllis Sharps

1 While we're doing introductions, I don't think we did, Jessica,  
2 either. Oh. I'm sorry.

3

4 00:56:38:01 - 00:56:47:19

5 Phyllis Sharps

6 So nobody's going to talk. Okay, so we go back to Marya. Were  
7 you -- did I interrupt you? I think I cut you off.

8

9 00:56:47:21 - 00:57:37:24

10 Marya Zlatnik

11 Oh, well, no, I was just, thanking, you know -- Nikita, you're  
12 speaking to the choir. but certainly, if that's something that  
13 both would be part of the well woman visit. You know, anyone  
14 with any kind of chronic something, consider a referral to MFM  
15 or another person who can sort of address those issues. And  
16 also, Kyra and I were in the chat, you know, people like the  
17 lupus doctors or the endocrinologist, you know, when the as you  
18 were kind of saying, when the endocrinologist says, you know,  
19 the endocrinologist thinks they're saying you shouldn't get  
20 pregnant because your diabetes is not controlled.

21

22 00:57:37:24 - 00:57:54:19

23 Marya Zlatnik

24 Sometimes what people hear is, oh, you can't get pregnant. And  
25 so, there's sort of this misconception that the dialog has  
26 happened about the importance of preparing for conception, but  
27 in reality, it wasn't a dialog.

28

29 00:58:05:04 - 00:58:14:10

30 Phyllis Sharps

31 Mhm. The HIV women I worked with did, yeah. Jessica?

32

1 00:58:14:12 - 00:58:23:14  
2 Phyllis Sharps  
3 Do you want to introduce yourself, Jessica?  
4  
5 00:58:23:16 - 00:58:25:15  
6 Phyllis Sharps  
7 Hm, okay.  
8  
9 00:58:25:17 - 00:58:42:14  
10 Phyllis Sharps  
11 Well, we have about 25 minutes left. So I'm going to try to  
12 share my, can I -- do I have sharing capability?  
13  
14 00:58:42:16 - 00:58:45:06  
15 Marya Zlatnik  
16 Yeah.  
17  
18 00:58:53:23 - 00:59:04:24  
19 Phyllis Sharps  
20 Okay. Are you able to see that? Do I need to make it bigger?  
21  
22 00:59:05:01 - 00:59:30:19  
23 Phyllis Sharps  
24 Okay, so this one was -- and these are very broad, and they're  
25 not recommendations as much as thinking about perhaps what  
26 direction we might go in. And, this is, and I'll explain what I  
27 was thinking about, and then we can say this is trash. Or we can  
28 say, maybe yes or something.  
29

1 00:59:30:19 - 00:59:56:01

2 Phyllis Sharps

3 And Joy is right, I'm an academic person. I've spent many years  
4 teaching university level, so I always think you have to have a  
5 framework. And so I thought a more holistic life course  
6 framework and I -- and I'm thinking, we heard from Sarah  
7 Verbiest early on and we can certainly put now that we have a  
8 box to put stuff in, I will put that in there if it's not in  
9 there.

10

11 00:59:56:01 - 01:00:38:02

12 Phyllis Sharps

13 But she, many years ago proposed a reproductive sexual well-  
14 being health framework. And it is centered on science, but also  
15 the voice of community members and collaboration. And what I was  
16 thinking is that it is a more inclusive framework because it  
17 doesn't only concentrate on the pregnancy time and the -- but it  
18 could be picking up issues for earlier, starting, as Kyra said,  
19 with the younger people, but also, perhaps the trans and sexual  
20 identity diversity people.

21

22 01:00:38:02 - 01:01:12:00

23 Phyllis Sharps

24 So that's kind of what I was thinking there. The second one is  
25 diversifying, of course, the health care workforce. and just  
26 making sure that we have training moneys and particularly that,  
27 would support members from the BIPOC community, which is you  
28 know, black, indigenous and people of color. because I think  
29 we've heard over and over that those are people we need and we  
30 certainly need to get education out, in terms of people knowing  
31 about other careers in the healthcare field that are in the  
32 perinatal workspace.

33

34 01:01:12:02 - 01:01:43:00

1 Phyllis Sharps

2 And HRSA, I mean, there's lots -- the MCH bureau has funded lots  
3 of training programs, and I think we need to make sure that that  
4 gets -- and if there is a way for them to even support  
5 additional training or advanced training around the pre-  
6 conception work space for doulas, for home visitors, and I can't  
7 spell, but, that would be really great.

8

9 01:01:43:02 - 01:02:21:06

10 Phyllis Sharps

11 As well as physicians. I think someone pointed out this morning  
12 that we also need to expand the existing workforce in terms of  
13 their knowledge and the ability to do the work in that space.  
14 But we also need to create new providers. So that's bullets two  
15 and three. and then I think, I was thinking that we probably  
16 need to make a recommendation about what would be the metrics  
17 for, both outcomes, but more importantly, quality.

18

19 01:02:21:08 - 01:02:55:11

20 Phyllis Sharps

21 And I think for existing, I mean, we heard a little bit about  
22 Healthy Start, I think yesterday some of the preconception  
23 interconception care that they provide. So in existing programs  
24 that are already funded, are there ways to, you know -- they are  
25 all having to report some data without creating the burden, but  
26 are there ways to put in one or two indicators of so we have a  
27 better notion of what's happening too in the field?

28

29 01:02:55:15 - 01:03:35:14

30 Phyllis Sharps

31 I think about PRAMS, whether or not we can -- if there is a way  
32 or other existing surveillance database that captures the  
33 reproductive health, if there's, a metric to go there, I think  
34 we've heard over, and Kyra pointed it out is just a widespread

1 and intentional education program about reproductive health and  
2 care. And, you know, so what your health should look like, as  
3 well as who should, where you would go to receive care, what  
4 kind of resources are available to support your reproductive  
5 health?

6

7 01:03:35:16 - 01:04:03:08

8 Phyllis Sharps

9 And then -- but would also address misinformation and myths  
10 around this whole space. And of course, you know, the challenges  
11 that it certainly needs to be inclusive of all potential  
12 populations. It has to be culturally appropriate. So it probably  
13 would not be one size that there may be different variations of  
14 some standard information depending on the community.

15

16 01:04:03:10 - 01:04:29:13

17 Phyllis Sharps

18 It has to be, I think, appropriate in terms of literacy so that  
19 folks can understand it. I mean, simple things like colorful  
20 fonts are important. How much information is on the page as well  
21 as well as reading level. Multimedia, because we know certainly  
22 in our younger populations, they get information from a variety  
23 of places. It's not always documents and reading.

24

25 01:04:29:15 - 01:05:19:15

26 Phyllis Sharps

27 And we've heard broadband access will be important in the  
28 digital space and it should be widely available every place any  
29 birthing or parenting person would receive care, that some  
30 aspect of reproductive health care information should be  
31 available. So that would, that's my, some -- anyway I think  
32 could be a starting point for thinking about potential  
33 recommendations.

34



1 01:05:19:17 - 01:05:28:00

2 Phyllis Sharps

3 Thoughts? Or, do we need to, just start all over from the  
4 beginning? Or, what do you think?

5

6 01:05:28:02 - 01:05:38:16

7 Kyra Betts

8 I feel like this really encompasses, a lot of what we were  
9 talking about today. And this is what you came up with last  
10 night, right?

11

12 01:05:38:18 - 01:05:39:14

13 Phyllis Sharps

14 Mhm.

15

16 01:05:39:16 - 01:06:16:03

17 Kyra Betts

18 Right. So that makes me feel like all of our minds are in, like,  
19 this shared space, noticing like the trends of misinformation  
20 and myths around preconception and being able to identify ways  
21 to, to determine if what is happening is even working. So like  
22 the surveillance metrics, I feel like we're all in a very shared  
23 space looking at this and reflecting on the conversation that  
24 we've had today.

25

26 01:06:16:05 - 01:06:50:08

27 Kyra Betts

28 I like it. I think it's a really, I think it's really  
29 comprehensive. and what you're putting in right now, I think is  
30 really is so important. There are so many barriers to  
31 appropriate, adequate training, development, health care,  
32 pregnancy care, all of these things, there are so many barriers.

1 and so addressing that infrastructure, and I think Julie said  
2 earlier is like critical because there are like community  
3 barriers.

4

5 01:06:50:08 - 01:07:21:12

6 Kyra Betts

7 There are seen barriers, there are unseen barriers. And I think  
8 that once you dig in on that part, about what those barriers are  
9 and why they exist, I mean, unfortunately, but fortunately, we  
10 will be making a whole other separate list of recommendations  
11 just around barriers.

12

13 01:07:21:14 - 01:07:22:00

14 Phyllis Sharps

15 So--

16

17 01:07:22:00 - 01:07:23:17

18 Janice Bell

19 Hi, Janice.

20

21 01:07:23:19 - 01:07:25:21

22 Phyllis Sharps

23 Okay, go.

24

25 01:07:25:23 - 01:07:45:11

26 Janice Bell

27 I think we're off to a very good start, based on just our  
28 discussion and what you summarized so far. I'm sure we'll be  
29 adding more to this, but I do believe we're off to a very good  
30 start. So I agree with what you have so far. Thank you.

1

2 01:07:45:13 - 01:07:46:23

3 Phyllis Sharps

4 Thank you.

5

6 01:07:47:00 - 01:07:51:01

7 Janice Bell (?)

8 You're welcome.

9

10 01:07:51:03 - 01:08:35:03

11 Phyllis Sharps

12 So one of the things too I guess we will think about is, and  
13 maybe, before our July meeting, I can make another draft. After  
14 the feedback from today with the recommendation and our  
15 rationale, and make -- maybe it'll be a two or three column  
16 document that would have the recommendation, the rationale, and  
17 maybe some resources or -- either existing resources or evidence  
18 that we know of, or you all know that would support us making  
19 that recommendation.

20

21 01:08:35:05 - 01:08:38:01

22 Phyllis Sharps

23 Kelly?

24

25 01:08:38:03 - 01:09:04:23

26 Kelley Bowden

27 Yeah. As we've been talking about education, it was in a meeting  
28 recently, and there was a lawyer in the meeting, and she shared  
29 that she was pregnant and didn't know she was supposed to be  
30 taking folic acid or prenatal vitamins. A friend told her she  
31 should, so she did. And it was a little shocking to me that

1 someone with that level of education hadn't heard about folic  
2 acid.

3

4 01:09:04:23 - 01:09:19:08

5 Kelley Bowden

6 But I think it highlights that education can't be the only  
7 activity around preconception health.

8

9 01:09:19:10 - 01:09:43:05

10 Phyllis Sharps

11 Yeah. I mean, I think we're kind of seeing education training,  
12 funding and resources.

13

14 01:09:43:07 - 01:09:48:02

15 Phyllis Sharps

16 I'm sorry, Joy, I'm trying to write and - Joy?

17

18 01:09:48:04 - 01:10:16:19

19 Joy Neyhart

20 I, two things. One is, specifically if we -- I know we had asked  
21 for this, and I'm not sure if it's available. But it could be  
22 helpful to know what had what some of the outcomes are, whether  
23 the state to expanded Medicaid coverage to women for 12 months  
24 after they've given birth, you know, has that, been cost  
25 effective and has it improved health?

26

27 01:10:16:19 - 01:10:38:19

28 Joy Neyhart

29 And if it has, can we write a specific recommendation that, that  
30 the federal government, you know, we always hate that word  
31 mandate, but put that into the legislation when providing

1 Medicaid funds to states that, you know, pregnant women need to  
2 be, or women who've given birth need to be covered for a minimum  
3 of four months afterward.

4

5 01:10:39:00 - 01:10:59:04

6 Joy Neyhart

7 So that's one specific thing that I think we can recommend. And  
8 if we had evidence of what those outcomes were, where states  
9 have already done that, that could be helpful. And then my other  
10 kind of question is,

11

12 01:10:59:06 - 01:11:22:12

13 Joy Neyhart

14 You know within the purview of or the, yeah, the -- what HRSA  
15 can do like, the agencies that HRSA can affect, you know, where  
16 should we target infrastructure recommendations, I guess is the  
17 question. And maybe that's a question for Vanessa or for Michael  
18 Warren. I'm just not sure.

19

20 01:11:23:19 - 01:11:27:01

21 Joy Neyhart

22 So I'm adding more questions in too.

23

24 01:11:27:03 - 01:11:48:19

25 Vanessa Lee

26 Yeah, we can think about that. And, Deb, I mean, the first thing  
27 that comes to mind in terms of infrastructure from at least  
28 MCHB's investments is Title V, which Michael Warren had, you  
29 know, presented a brief overview on terms of being, that block  
30 grant to states for public health services and systems. Is that  
31 what you mean, Joy?

32

1 01:11:48:19 - 01:11:50:01

2 Vanessa Lee

3 Like, what would be --

4

5 01:11:50:03 - 01:12:19:07

6 Joy Neyhart

7 But that, those grants go to exist -- I think they go to  
8 existing programs and institutions. But if we don't have the  
9 programs and institutions to receive in these health care, you  
10 know, deserts, how can we affect that? Is there a way through  
11 HRSA that we can or a way that we can make a recommendation to  
12 her so that that can there be, then be acted upon?

13

14 01:12:19:09 - 01:12:23:20

15 Joy Neyhart

16 I mean, we were told to be bold. So I'm out there.

17

18 01:12:23:22 - 01:12:59:22

19 Phyllis Sharps

20 Well, I mean, one of the things that comes to mind, one of the  
21 presenters talked about or I don't know, maybe it was Belinda  
22 that talked about programs that are testing out, supplemental  
23 payments for, I don't know whether it was for housing or  
24 something. So where and it's coming under -- where does that get  
25 funded from, or is that a collaboration between the housing, HUD  
26 and, and, you know, a Health and Human Services entity or?

27

28 01:12:59:22 - 01:13:18:12

29 Phyllis Sharps

30 I mean, because that -- I mean, again, I guess it would need to  
31 see data. Does it make -- I'm sure it makes a difference. But if

1 you're giving helping pregnant women and families to get into  
2 housing, that assumes that other things will be improved.

3

4 01:13:18:14 - 01:13:46:12

5 Vanessa Lee

6 Yes, the housing, examples at least that might have been  
7 mentioned came either through Healthy Start Enhanced or the  
8 catalyst grants that MCHB did about two years ago, where we did  
9 a call out for focusing on the social and structural  
10 determinants of health. So yes, if you would want to make a  
11 recommendation that more, you know, demonstration projects go  
12 towards that.

13

14 01:13:46:12 - 01:14:18:18

15 Vanessa Lee

16 I mean, the catalyst right now is the only I would say, grant  
17 program demonstration that's specifically funding social and  
18 structural strategies versus direct services. Deb, again, others  
19 on the line from, from MCHB, if you can think of others. But, I  
20 think some of the other grantees that we have used other dollars  
21 and necessarily our MCHB funds to do some of the supplemental  
22 income work or other housing related projects.

23

24 01:14:24:09 - 01:14:31:18

25 Phyllis Sharps

26 Well, you know, I'm, I'm thinking certainly in terms of  
27 transportation or some of those things, probably a Healthy Start  
28 group or funded program could just write that into their budget.

29

30 01:14:32:23 - 01:14:48:12

31 Phyllis Sharps

32 That they, you know, they provide, I don't know, a clinic. And  
33 they're giving people vouchers or coupons to get to and from.

1

2 01:14:48:14 - 01:15:07:16

3 Phyllis Sharps

4 But we could also check too, to see if what the social  
5 determinants of health group is working on and if they're even  
6 thinking -- I mean, I'm sure they are, but, what they might be  
7 recommending around infrastructure.

8

9 01:15:19:19 - 01:15:22:06

10 Phyllis Sharps

11 I'm sorry. Marya?

12

13 01:15:22:08 - 01:15:48:20

14 Marya Zlatnik

15 Thank you. And actually, my comment sort of relates to that is I  
16 wonder if it's worth thinking about because many of the things  
17 on our list are also things that would improve care during  
18 pregnancy. And so do we want to sort of flag like this is a  
19 priority for interconception preconception care, but it's also a  
20 priority for pregnancy care.

21

22 01:15:48:20 - 01:16:02:21

23 Marya Zlatnik

24 Like, you know, race concordant providers and expanding the  
25 health == you know, I know almost everything on our list. It  
26 would be helpful once people are pregnant. I don't know if it's  
27 helpful to call that out. You know.

28

29 01:16:02:23 - 01:16:04:02

30 Phyllis Sharps

31 Yeah.



1

2 01:16:04:02 - 01:16:07:23

3 Marya Zlatnik

4 Sort of joining forces with the other work groups.

5

6 01:16:08:00 - 01:16:15:16

7 Phyllis Sharps

8 Yeah. And I don't know, I would imagine there's kind of a  
9 preamble or beginning to the document that the letter or  
10 whatever is prepared from this group for recommendations.

11

12 01:16:17:06 - 01:16:55:16

13 Phyllis Sharps

14 And we may want to recommend that we talk about some general  
15 things such as, you know, race concordant care, importance of  
16 infrastructure, because that that is overriding. And then and  
17 then maybe call out specifically how it makes a difference for  
18 our area, kind of thing.

19

20 01:16:55:18 - 01:17:01:06

21 Phyllis Sharps

22 Okay. We have about five more minutes. Is that right?

23

24 01:17:11:09 - 01:17:54:08

25 Phyllis Sharps

26 Yeah. I will, I think Vanessa probably, will have some minutes  
27 for us. And I, I can put this document in our shared folder. And  
28 I would say also, if you have access to the membership group,  
29 Joy, and our emails are on the list, but we can certainly send  
30 it out if you have more thoughts that that we just didn't get to  
31 today, that we can start adding in to this list.

1

2 01:17:54:10 - 01:18:17:10

3 Phyllis Sharps

4 And we can -- and I'll work a little bit more on it. We made  
5 again this work group on July 22nd, I believe.

6

7 01:18:17:12 - 01:18:21:09

8 Phyllis Sharps

9 That was. Yeah.

10

11 01:18:21:11 - 01:18:29:04

12 Vanessa Lee

13 All right. July 17th, Wednesday -- third Wednesdays of the  
14 month. So July 17th at 2 p.m. Eastern.

15

16 01:18:29:06 - 01:18:33:07

17 Phyllis Sharps

18 So we already have one speaker.

19

20 01:18:33:09 - 01:18:34:22

21 Vanessa Lee

22 That you guys wanted.

23

24 01:18:34:24 - 01:19:12:17

25 Phyllis Sharps

26 Yeah, yeah. One speaker and, and I think maybe just one speaker  
27 because the hour really does pretty fast. And we'll come back  
28 and look at this document again because, I suspect in October,  
29 we'll want it to be in pretty good shape. because we only have

1 one more meeting after October right, is that right? The March  
2 meeting. Any parting comments before we?

3

4 01:19:12:19 - 01:19:18:19

5 Phyllis Sharps

6 Typically what happens in this group is the controller just cut  
7 you off, so.

8

9 01:19:18:21 - 01:19:25:18

10 Joy Neyhart

11 What time are we meeting on July 17th? Because I just got  
12 scheduled to the work that day, so I want to block that hour.

13

14 01:19:25:20 - 01:19:28:23

15 Phyllis Sharps

16 It's 2:00 to 3:00 Eastern Time.

17

18 01:19:29:00 - 01:19:30:15

19 Joy Neyhart

20 So noon Mountain Time.

21

22 01:19:30:15 - 01:19:35:16

23 Phyllis Sharps

24 Okay, that should be easy. You're entitled to have lunch then.

25

26 01:19:35:18 - 01:19:39:01

27 Joy Neyhart

28 Yeah, that's what I'll tell the scheduler. Thank you.

1

2 01:19:39:03 - 01:19:46:05

3 Phyllis Sharps

4 Okay. Any other comments, suggestions?

5

6 01:19:46:07 - 01:20:15:06

7 Marya Zlatnik

8 I -- sorry, just a quick question. So I'm wondering if we can  
9 bucket the recommendations. And I know -- I know the call was to  
10 sort of think big. So, what are, and then what can we do now,  
11 right? So what are the now things. How do we think big. And then  
12 can we bucket them into maybe, you know, training or service and  
13 just to sort of think through how to present the  
14 recommendations.

15

16 01:20:15:08 - 01:20:19:13

17 Phyllis Sharps

18 Okay.

19

20 01:20:19:15 - 01:20:49:04

21 Phyllis Sharps

22 Oops.

23

24 01:20:49:06 - 01:20:58:06

25 Phyllis Sharps

26 Alright. Well, that's just the start.

27

28 01:21:18:23 - 01:21:34:07

29 Phyllis Sharps

1 Anything else from anyone? Jessica. We didn't -- we didn't hear  
2 from you. Jessica, I don't know, maybe you're on your mic now?  
3  
4 01:21:34:09 - 01:21:43:19  
5 Phyllis Sharps  
6 Okay.  
7  
8 01:21:43:21 - 01:22:05:15  
9 Phyllis Sharps  
10 You said no. Do you want to just say hello to us? Unmute and say  
11 hello or you're okay?  
12  
13 01:22:05:17 - 01:22:20:13  
14 Phyllis Sharps  
15 There she is. You're on mute.  
16  
17 01:22:20:15 - 01:22:37:15  
18 Phyllis Sharps  
19 Can you, is -- can you unmute her?  
20  
21 01:22:37:17 - 01:23:10:10  
22 Phyllis Sharps  
23 Well. Welcome, Jessica. And, I hope you'll join us in July. And,  
24 if there are no other comments, I want to thank everyone for  
25 coming and being a part of the group and sharing and we'll see  
26 everyone on July 17th.  
27  
28 01:23:10:12 - 01:23:14:00  
29 Janice Bell

1 Thank you.

2

3 01:23:14:02 - 01:23:15:24

4 Liza Romero

5 Thank you.

6

7 01:23:16:01 - 01:23:16:21

8 Vanessa Lee

9 Thank you, bye.

10

11