Birth Equity – Tackling the Elephant in the Room

Elena Jenkins  BSN, RN
Becky Boedeker  DNP, RNC-MNN, IBCLC, C-ONQS

Introduction
- Urban community hospital, also high-risk administrative center for the Southern Illinois Perinatal Network.
- Demographics of our population:
  - 67% non-white
  - 68% Medicaid
- Evaluating care through equity lens

Problem
1. No consistent screening, ability to document for SDOH, or easily accessible resources.
2. Maternal health data is stratified by race, ethnicity and Medicaid status, but defining meaningful evaluation difficult.
3. Previous teams did not include community members
4. Hospital has started Discussions of D,E,&I issues, but no initiatives have reached the staff.

Team Goals
Multidisciplinary team began by focusing on the following projects:
1. Universal Determinants of Health Screening and accurate, accessible resources.
2. Search for meaningful data.
3. Recruit community members
4. Plan education for providers and staff

Baseline Data

St. Mary’s - Percentage of Delivering People in each race/ethnicity with condition

- White
- Black

St. Mary’s – Percentage of total occurrences by race/ethnicity

- White
- Black

Medicare/Medicaid, Primary C/S, Stillbirth, PTD, HTN, MBL>1500, Total Population

Successes - Ongoing Work

1. Screening for SDOH and referral for resources
   - EPIC work group assigned to screening project.
   - Petitioned to have screening placed on admission navigator as required documentation.
   - Projected go-live Dec 2021.
   - Sub-group updated local resources and working to create user-friendly interface.

2. Search for meaningful data
   - Developed strategy to separate patients by high-risk, low-risk, and zip code.
   - Plan to compare outcomes of our homogenous population with that of another hospital in more affluent area.

3. Including Community Members
   - Team includes two members from the community.
   - Currently recruiting for a Program’s specialist to engage the community in future programs.

4. Staff education
   - Received grant to register 16 nurses in national SPEAK Up training – using these champions to help plan and disseminate
   - Plan to require LMS modules
   - Plan to host Grand Rounds speaker for providers