



OAH Pregnancy Assistance Fund Program SUCCESSFUL STRATEGIES

Mississippi State Department of Health

Perinatal High-Risk Case Management: Addressing Barriers for Expectant and Parenting Teens

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Perinatal High-Risk Case Management: Addressing Barriers for Expectant and Parenting Teens, offered by the Mississippi State Department of Health, provides intensive case management and home visiting to help teens to succeed in school and parenting.

GOALS

1. Connect parents and their infants with a medical home (a usual place for health care that is comprehensive and ongoing).
2. Increase father involvement.
3. Increase parents' commitment to staying in school.
4. Delay subsequent unintended pregnancy.



In Focus: A Place for Parents to Learn

When Jillian Harper, a social worker at the Mississippi State Department of Health, saw that young mothers weren't equipped with the parenting skills they needed, she created an interactive parenting station in a spare room of the Jones County Health Department. Using donated items from the community, she and other staff offered hands-on guidance in parenting and infant care skills to participants in the Perinatal High-Risk Case Management program. The parenting station was so successful that it's expanding into a larger space with sections devoted to safe sleep, bathing, car seat safety, diapering, feeding, developmental tasks and play, and life skills for young parents.

PROGRAM SNAPSHOT

Population

Expectant and parenting teens (ages 17-19) enrolled in high school, a GED program, or alternative school program who do not otherwise qualify for Medicaid-reimbursed case management services, and their infants (up to one year old)

Locations

34 counties in eastern Mississippi. Direct services are offered in six counties, with consultation provided in the remaining 28 counties

Partners

Mississippi Division of Medicaid; District IX Fetal Infant Mortality Review Community Action Team/Advisory Group; Lauderdale County/NFusionX Governance Council; Jones County MAP Team; Mississippi Action Network for Uplifting Promise (M.A.N. U.P.!); Community Action Network/Tougaloo College; and birthing hospitals and medical providers across the state

STRATEGIES

Multidisciplinary, intensive case management

The case management team includes a social worker, a nurse, and a registered dietician who meet with the teen at least once a month in a clinic or at the participant's home or school. Case managers help participants learn about infant development, parenting skills, and delaying subsequent pregnancies. Two curricula, "24/7 Dad" and "Partners for a Healthy Baby," supplement health education provided by the case management team and promote father engagement in parenting.

The case management team makes referrals and helps arrange transportation to connect participants with local organizations that provide housing, financial services, and parenting classes. They also help participants access available educational opportunities, including home-based education supported by the school district, virtual high school, and GED programs. "Teen specialists"—social workers with expertise in case management for expectant and parenting adolescents—offer direct services in six counties and provide consultation on best practices to case managers to the 28 remaining counties.

Outreach and community engagement

Program staff meet with high school personnel, including counselors, nurses, and district officials, as well as attend community and professional events, to raise awareness of the program at the local, regional, and state levels. Recently, the program published an editorial in the Mississippi School Counseling Association's monthly newsletter and exhibited at the Mississippi Nurses Association's annual conference. State-level outreach happens at least once a week, and local outreach at least monthly.

Stats at a Glance

1,072

Participants served
(2015-2017)

100%

Participants were linked to a
medical home (2015-2017)

73%

School-eligible participants
remained in school while receiving
case management (2017)

56%

Increase in enrollment of father
participants between year one
and year two

97%

Female participants in 2016 did
not have a pregnancy in the year
following the program

Grantee Information

Danielle Seale
Director of Women's Health
601-576-7477
danielle.seale@msdh.ms.gov
www.msdh.ms.gov/

About the PAF Program

The Office of Adolescent Health Pregnancy Assistance Fund (PAF) Program provides funding to states and tribal entities to improve the health, educational, social, and economic outcomes of expectant and parenting teens, women, fathers, and their families.