PERINATAL BEHAVIORAL HEALTH INITIATIVE

BACKGROUND INFO
The Perinatal Behavioral Health Initiative (PBHI) connects hospitals, social service and behavioral health organizations to align the region around moms’ most pressing behavioral health issues. PBHI coordinates the Perinatal Resource Network, consisting of health, mental (or behavioral) health and social service providers that offer behavioral health screenings, referrals and support services for pregnant women and new moms. This network takes a holistic case management approach that connects moms to behavioral health support. They also address factors that contribute to toxic stress, like income, housing, jobs, transportation, substance use, intimate partner violence and trauma.

FY20 HIGHLIGHTS
Focus Areas:
- Professional Development
- Perinatal Resource Network
- Sustainability/Advocacy
- Community Engagement

Stakeholders’ Highlights:
- Successful Referrals and sharing of resources
- Medicaid Expansion
- Advocacy Days

“6 of our parenting mothers were [high school] seniors this year and successfully met all requirements for their high school graduation.” - PBHI Partner

“Given our strength in psychiatric care, we offer this service to many of our partners. This is why we are especially grateful to be able to cover the cost of these appointments for patients who are under or uninsured through the initiative.” - PBHI Partner

Added a major provider, Affinia, as a funded partner. The number of unique persons served increased between March and July, from 491 to 987 (difference of 496).

Focus on outcomes shifted from individual depression scores to collective impact of community. This allows for a more holistic approach to family health.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT
During [in person] meetings we provide stipends, transportation, and childcare for consumers. This ensures that lived experiences drive our collaborative work.

“COVID-19 and going virtual meant a shift that opened new opportunities to connect with women who are more isolated due to transportation and time barriers in an equitable way.” - PBHI Partner

POLICY AND ADVOCACY
The general body voted to approve the advocacy statement and to focus on: Medicaid Expansion, Paid Family Leave, and Dignity in Pregnancy and Childbirth.

Advocacy Statement:
PBHI will advocate for policies that improve the emotional well-being and quality of life for prenatal women of color and their families. We will accomplish this by utilizing the expertise of community voice, and a multidisciplinary network of community, providers, organizations, and systems leaders.

WHO WE ARE
Convener: Generate Health
Funded Partners:
- Affinia Health Care
- Bethany Christian Services
- Family Cares Health Center
- FamilyForward
- Great Circle
- LifeWise STL
- Lutheran Family Children Services
- Nurses for Newborns
- Project DEAMHI
- Queen of Peace Center
- The Women’s Safe House
- Washington University – Perinatal Behavioral Health Services

Visit our website: https://generatehealthstl.org/programs/perinatal-behavioral-health/

For more information contact:
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