

May 2024

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## Partner Highlights >>>

### NH Black Women's Health Project

The New Hampshire Black Women's Health Project focuses on the mental well-being of people of African descent, especially in maternal health and care delivery. They aim to highlight the huge impact of racism on how people of African descent are treated. Overwhelming, statistics reveal that women of African descent lose more babies during delivery and suffer more complications during pregnancy and postpartum than women of European descendants. The fetal mortality rate is extremely high for Women of African descent in the US, especially in the South. It is important that all individuals understand how women of African descent are treated differently than those who are not of African descent. The goal of the New Hampshire Black Women's Health Project is to shed light on these disparities. They aim to identify tools and techniques that lead to better health outcomes for people of African descent.

Their most recent initiative is the launch of a new podcast: *Eboni Queens of NH* on May 3<sup>rd</sup> 2024. The podcast explores crucial issues of mental health and racism from the perspectives of African Descendant communities. Each episode is a journey through authentic stories and raw viewpoints, aiming to educate and challenge misconceptions about African Descendant communities.

See the podcast at: [Eboni Queens of NH \(libsyn.com\)](https://libsyn.com/eboni-queens-of-nh)

\*The NHPQC sees itself as facilitating resource sharing throughout the state. However, resources shared in this column are not endorsed by Dartmouth Health.



Source: Hannah Busing on Upsplash

## Forming a Community Coalition

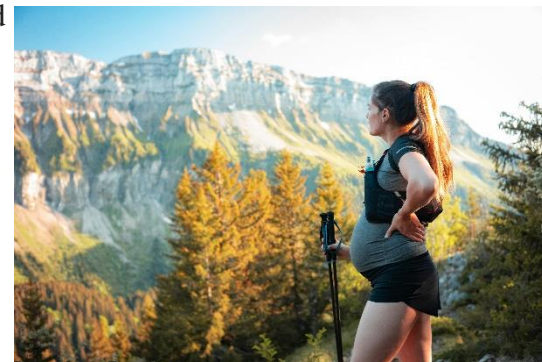
We envision maternal health coalitions throughout the state that suit the localized needs of each regional birthing community. The NHPQC will act as the backbone support for these coalitions, facilitating their launch and sustainability. Ideally, each coalition holds regular meetings, pursuing a common agenda and organizing reinforcing activities. Coalition members should continuously share information in a manner that inclusively connects team members and breaks down silos. Collective impact strategies (listed on page 2) ensure their approach is equitable and community driven.



Source: Alicia Petresc on Upsplash

Take time to celebrate the small wins! Any improvement is forward progress! Creating a positive, open environment is vital to success. Thank your teams often.

The NHPQC will be responsive to community needs and offer help via facilitation, newsletters, webinars, resource compilation, and administrative support. In June the updated and finalized Strategic Plan will be highlighted in this newsletter. The plan reflects the broad input received at the Summit and outlines priority initiatives. More to come in future newsletters....



Source: Lucas Favre on Upsplash

### Sources

- ØVretveit, J., Bate, P., Cleary, P., Cretin, S., Gustafson, D., McInnes, K., McLeod, H., Molfenter, T., Plsek, P., Robert, G., Shortell, S., & Wilson, T. (2002). Quality collaboratives: lessons from research. *Quality & safety in health care*, 11(4), 345–351. <https://doi.org/10.1136/qhc.11.4.345>
- Schaffer, K., Cilenti, D., Urlaub, D. M., Magee, E. P., Owens Shuler, T., Henderson, C., & Tucker, C. (2022). Using a Collective Impact Framework to Implement Evidence-Based Strategies for Improving Maternal and Child Health Outcomes. *Health promotion practice*, 23(3), 482–492. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1524839921998806>

# Collective Impact Strategies

1. **Listen.** Understand history and context through policy research, review of “community health needs assessments”, and conversations with community members.
2. **Make a long-term commitment.** Work should be intergenerational and communities should be co-owners of the change.
3. **Center equity.** Create a shared vision that intentionally shifts the balance of power by placing community members in leadership positions, co-designing interventions and strategies at every step, and recognizing the need to offer stipends, honorariums, or other support (e.g., child care and transportation) that will enable authentic and accessible community participation.
4. **Create a culture of learning.** Lean into hard conversations that include being open, actively seeking new information, and iterative adaptation.
5. **Improve equitable access to data and information.** Population level change requires gaining a better understanding of the quality of care and services provided, the outcomes of those services, and visibility into the entire care journey for each individual.

**Source:** Terry, A., Frost, E., Mitchell, K., & Ahmadi-Montecalvo, H. (2023, November 29). A Collective Impact Model to Advance Maternal Health Equity. Uniteus.com; Unite Us. <https://uniteus.com/blog/a-collective-impact-model-to-advance-maternal-health-equity/>



# Glossary of Terms

**Coalition:** an alliance of distinct parties, persons, or states for joint action.

**Collective Impact:** a network of community members, organizations, and institutions who advance equity by learning together, aligning, and integrating their actions to achieve population and systems level change

**Health Equity:** every person has the opportunity to attain their full health potential, and no one is disadvantaged for achieving this potential because of socially determined circumstances

## Upcoming Maternal Health Webinars >>>

**-Watch Anytime:** NH Black Women’s Health Project: [Ebony Queens of NH Podcasts](#)

**-May 29<sup>th</sup> 1-2pm:** Responding to Prenatal Alcohol and Other Substance Exposures: FASD, Trauma, and Child Welfare. [Register.](#)

**-May 31<sup>st</sup> 12-1pm:** Outcome Studies of Maternal Health Care and Disparities within Active-Duty Service [Register](#)

**-June 4<sup>th</sup> 2-3pm:** Maternal Mental Health Screening, Treatment, and Improvement Strategies. [Register](#)

**-June 5<sup>th</sup> 1-2:** Community Support for Improving Maternal Health in Latino Communities [Register](#)

**-June 6<sup>th</sup> N 8:45-4pm:** NNEPQIN Spring Conference [Register](#)

**-June 11<sup>th</sup> 11:50-1pm:** Pathways to Becoming a Lactation Consultant: [Register.](#)

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