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California's Task Force on the Status of Maternal Mental Health Care

California's Commitment to Maternal Mental Health

Recognizing the prevalence (1 in 7 women will suffer) and serious implications of untreated maternal mental health disorders for mothers, children, families and society more generally, the California Legislative Women's Caucus put forth Assembly Concurrent Resolution (ACR) 148 which was passed in 2014. ACR 148 requests that the California Maternal Mental Health Collaborative (now known as 2020 Mom), a nonprofit organization, to establish a task force on the status of maternal mental health care. The California Endowment has provided financial support for a research team at California State University-Fresno and 2020 Mom Executive Director, Joy Burkhard to convene the task force.

Program Partners

2020 Mom was formed at the urging of the legislature in 2011, and receives its funding from private donations. 2020 Mom has been convening researchers and public and private change agents in California to "get to the bottom of why" women aren't been screened and treated and setting forth a new path for hospitals, health insurers and doctors. 2020 Mom also addresses maternal mental health on the state and national level through convening the national coalition for maternal mental health.

The Central Valley Health Policy Institute (*CVHPI*) is the research and program management body behind the Task Force, coordinating statewide surveys, in-depth interviews and quantitative analysis to explore the current maternal mental health context in California.

Funders

The Task Force is funded by private sources. The California Endowment is providing \$100,000 to cover the fees of the research institution, the Central Valley Health Policy Institute, which will provide project management and research expertise.

The California HealthCare Foundation is providing \$80,000 to cover the facilitation fees of Bruce Spurlock, MD, President and CEO of Cynosure Health Solutions, and wide-spread communication of the Task Force recommendations.

State-wide Survey

CVHPI will conduct a statewide needs assessment to document availability/accessibility of services; cultural appropriateness; clinical strategies; and roles of financing and regulatory policies on: screening, referral, treatment, and ongoing support for maternal mental health services. This will be achieved through an online survey that will be administered **to organizations and agencies throughout California and selected follow up in-depth individual interviews.**

Task Force

The Task Force will consist of more than 20 appointed members from various stakeholder organizations as well as advocates and mothers. It will convene in June 2015 and run through June 2016 to study the maternal mental health landscape in California. The Task Force will also carefully review programs outside of the state that have begun to address maternal mental health through legislative action. The goal of the Task Force is to issue a white paper summarizing findings and issuing recommendations to the CA legislature as well as other public and private entities.