**Success Story Template**

**Level of Success Story:** *Please align your success story with implementation of a recommendation from your maternal mortality review committee. Indicate here the level or area of focus of that recommendation as it aligns with the MMRIA Committee Decisions Form:*

* *PROVIDER: An individual with training and expertise who provides care, treatment, and/or advice*
* *FACILITY: A physical location where direct care is provided - ranges from small clinics and urgent care centers to hospitals with trauma centers*
* *SYSTEM: Interacting entities that support services before, during, or after a pregnancy - ranges from healthcare systems and payors to public services and programs*
* *COMMUNITY: A grouping based on a shared sense of place or identity - ranges from physical neighborhoods to a community based on common interests and shared circumstances*
* *DATA (not currently reflected in the MMRIA Committee Decisions Form): An activity to improve a key step of the MMRC process – may include improving the case identification process or enhancing the comprehensiveness of data collected on cases*

***Please indicate the level of success story here:***

**PROVIDER**

**FACILITY**

**SYSTEM**

**COMMUNITY**

**DATA**

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| Success Story Overview: |
| The Texas Maternal Mortality and Morbidity Review Committee (MMMRC) proposed several recommendations to increase maternal health and safety in the [Maternal Mortality and Morbidity Task Force and Department of State Health Services Joint Biennial Report, September 2018](https://www.dshs.texas.gov/mch/pdf/MMMTFJointReport2018.pdf) . Recognizing the importance of addressing the recommendations of the MMMRC, the Texas legislature appropriated funding to support the work of the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS), Healthy Texas Mothers and Babies (HTMB) Branch and collaborative partnerships, to implement data-supported and recommendation-driven maternal health and safety initiatives.  For more information on these initiatives: [Maternal Health & Safety Initiatives Legislative Report (PDF)](https://www.dshs.texas.gov/mch/pdf/Maternal-Health-and-Safety-Activities-Report-2020.pdf). |
| The Challenge |
| The Texas Maternal Mortality and Morbidity Review Committee (MMMRC) reports that a complex interaction of factors across multiple levels of society contribute to maternal mortality, racial and ethnic disparities persist, and more than three quarters of pregnancy-related deaths are potentially preventable.  The [Maternal Mortality and Morbidity Task Force and Department of State Health Services Joint Biennial Report, September 2018](https://www.dshs.texas.gov/mch/pdf/MMMTFJointReport2018.pdf) identified priority recommendations to address these complex drivers to maternal mortality that required additional support for effective implementation in Texas, including but not limited to:   * Enhance screening and appropriate referral for maternal risk conditions. * Prioritize care coordination and management for pregnant and postpartum women. * Promote a culture of safety and high reliability through implementation of best practices in birthing facilities. * Increase maternal health programming to target high-risk populations, especially Black women * Initiate public awareness campaigns to promote health enhancing behaviors. |
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| The Solution |

The Legislature recognized the need for additional support to move MMMRC recommendations into action and bolstered the capacity of DSHS to support the development and implementation of these efforts through the 2020-21 General Appropriations Act, House Bill (HB) 1 (Article II, Health and Human Services, Rider 28). The Appropriations Act appropriated annually, over the biennium:

● $1.33 million and six full time equivalents (FTEs) to implement maternal safety initiatives statewide;

● $1.17 million and two FTEs to develop and establish the High-Risk Maternal Care Coordination Services Program Pilot; and

● $1 million to increase public awareness and prevention activities for maternal health.

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| The Result |

Funding has strengthened key maternal health and safety initiatives of the DSHS HTMB Branch and collaborative partners:

* [TexasAIM initiative](https://www.dshs.texas.gov/mch/TexasAIM.aspx)
  + As of January 2020, 219 of hospitals with obstetric service lines have voluntarily enrolled in TexasAIM, representing over 98 percent of all hospitals with obstetric services in Texas (approximately 99 percent of state births, and 10 percent of national births). The TexasAIM Initiative kicked off in June 2018 and launched the TexasAIM Plus Obstetric Hemorrhage (OBH) Learning Collaborative in August 2018.
  + TexasAIM celebrated the success of the OBH Learning Collaborative and kicked off recruitment for participation in the TexasAIM Plus Severe Hypertension in Pregnancy Learning Collaborative in December 2020. TexasAIM is working to support strategies for enhancing racial equity as an integral component of implementation for Core AIM Patient Safety Bundles.
  + DSHS worked with 10 “early adopter” hospitals to pilot components of the AIM Obstetric Care for Women with Opioid Use Disorder bundle.
* High-Risk Maternal Care Coordination Services Program Pilot project
  + DSHS is working to develop trainings, tools, and care coordination models, and a program to support identification of pregnant and postpartum women at high risk for poor maternal health outcomes and provision, including by community health workers, of patient education, navigation, and care coordination services. The pilot project will be completed in September 2023.
* Comprehensive Maternal Health and Safety Awareness, Education, and Communication Campaign
  + The campaign will integrate diverse outreach efforts to engage stakeholders with the goal of fostering a culture of maternal health and safety in Texas to increase public awareness about maternal mortality and morbidity and related prevention activities in Texas.
  + As of December 2020, DSHS has conducted market research and received stakeholder input for campaign development and implementation.

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| Methods of Sustainability |

Progress on these initiatives is reported biennially to the legislature, with the most recent updates provided in the [2020 Maternal Health and Safety Initiatives Report](https://www.dshs.texas.gov/legislative/2020-Reports/Maternal-Health-and-Safety-Activities-Report-2020.pdf). External partners play a vital role in recruitment and retention of hospitals and subject-matter experts for the TexasAIM Initiative. Continued investment in these programs and dedication of external partners will be required to sustain and continue successes achieved with TexasAIM and other maternal health and safety projects lead by the DSHS HTMB Branch.