

# COVID-19 Best Practices

Amber Price, DNP, CNM

Trinisha Williams, MPH, LM, CM

Anne Zink, MD

Amy Johnson-Grass, ND, LN, CPM, LM, Moderator

October 3, 2020

# Community Birth in New York

Trinisha Williams, MPH, CM

- Freestanding birth center in New York
- Coronavirus in NYC at the height of the pandemic in March 2020
- TrinshaW@gmail.com



# Health System in Tennessee



## Amber Price, DNP, CNM

- Nashville, TN is a big tourist destination
- Mask acceptance is low
- Denial of COVID as a real issue
- [Amber.Price2@hcahealthcare.com](mailto:Amber.Price2@hcahealthcare.com)

# State Health Department in Alaska



## Anne Zink, MD

- Alaska is larger than the combined area of the next 3 largest states: TX, CA, MT
- Least densely populated state, home to 229 remote villages
- “Remoteness” by Access – many places only accessible by plane or boat
  - 90% of communities are off the road system
- [Anne.Zink@alaska.gov](mailto:Anne.Zink@alaska.gov)

# COVID-19 Testing

# Community Birth in New York

- Availability and logistics for clients and staff
- Resources available

# Health System in Tennessee

- Low testing availability for hospitals
- Employee vs patient testing

# State Health Department in Alaska

- Current hospital practices
- Ramping up testing availability – partnerships with hospitals, private companies, tribal health, National Guard
- As of 8/19, Alaska was the highest per capita in COVID-19 testing compared to any other state
  - Weekly rate of 4.9 tests per 1,000 people



# Personal Protective Equipment

# Community Birth in New York



- Obtaining the materials
- Encouraging staff and clients' daily use
- Proper disclosure

# Health System in Tennessee

- Perception vs reality
- CDC recommendations vs employee expectations
- Facility issues/negative pressure spaces
- Keeping up with demand

# State Health Department in Alaska

- What the State did to ramp up PPE availability
- Providers can request PPE from their local emergency operations center
- Alaska Manufacturing Extension Partnership
  - Matches business with local manufacturers



# Visitation & Transfer of Care

# Community Birth in New York

- Family centered model with COVID
- Establishing a relationship with the local transfer facility to understand changes with COVID
- Proving a rapport with the medical team on how to best meet clients' need with hospital changes



# Health System in Tennessee



- Developing visitation policies
- Protecting support for laboring women
  - Partners, doulas, midwives
- Maternal Mortality prevention during COVID

# State Health Department in Alaska

- Alaska health mandate regarding visitation policies
- Overview of the Alaska Perinatal Quality Collaborative and the Alaska Birth Transfer Initiative
- Updates on hospital policies regarding midwives accompanying clients during transfer/transport
- Efforts to convene hospital administrators and midwives through Project ECHO for a discussion



# Education

# Community Birth in New York

- Staying current with the changing environment
- Available resources
- Supplemental materials for staff to stay current



# Health System in Tennessee

- Community education through media
- Patient and visitor education
- Knowledge gaps and conspiracy theory

# State Health Department in Alaska

- Quick implementation of Project ECHO in collaboration with the University of Alaska-Anchorage
  - Perinatal ECHO (continues monthly)
  - General Medical, schools, etc.



# Disparities and Differences Among Vulnerable Populations

# Community Birth in New York

- Resources for clients with community partners
- Understanding trust of medical model with changing environment
- Resources available to vulnerable populations

# Health System in Tennessee

- Preventing escalation of RMC violations
- Birth witnesses and transparency
- Racism and bias
  - How do we protect our most vulnerable patients?

# State Health Department in Alaska

- In 23 states with adequate race/ethnicity data, the cumulative incidence of laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 among AI/AN persons was 3.5 times that among non-Hispanic white persons (CDC, 8/19/20)
- Populations who have been experiencing health disparities prior to the pandemic – racial inequity, historical trauma (CDC, 8/19/20)
- Alaska Natives make up a quarter of COVID cases, but only 16% of the population (State of Alaska data)
  - Also more likely to get sick and be hospitalized (State of Alaska data)



# Questions?

