**MCMCH Purpose**

- MCMCH's purpose is to advocate for public policy that will improve maternal and child health and optimal development outcomes through prevention programs, access to care and adequate funding/reimbursement for providers.
  - Maternal is defined as pre-conception, prenatal, post-natal and nurturing;
  - Child is defined as birth through age 21 including infancy and early childhood, adolescence and young adulthood;
  - Health means physical, mental, oral, developmental, spiritual, and social-emotional well-being of a person or family.

**Overall Policy Objectives**

1. Work to assure adequate access to and reimbursement for services across all aspects of maternal and child health care including pre-conception health.
2. Promote community involvement in and management of child health, optimal development and safety issues.
3. Advocate for health literacy skills, health education, and healthy environments with a focus on prevention and early identification of risk across the life course from pre-conception care to healthy adulthood.
4. Use data in regard to health consequences and long-term cost to demonstrate return on investment and cost effectiveness of prevention.
5. Collaborate with other stakeholders including state government to strengthen health care systems in Michigan that value maternal and child health.
6. Develop common understanding and expectations of family/patient-centered medical home model and reimbursement.
7. Provide voice for value of unintended pregnancy prevention and availability of reproductive health screenings.

**Maternal and Infant Health**

*Goal:* Promote investment in a community-based continuum of care focusing on outreach and prevention programs that provide resources and support for pre-pregnancy family planning and pre-natal care. Advocate for programs that improve birth outcomes, promote healthy, nurturing family relationships, and support child development.

*Specific policies MCMCH members support:*

1. Seek enhanced recognition of and support for Infant Mental Health specialists as part of a multidisciplinary medical team;
2. Monitor and facilitate implementation of Maternal Infant Health Program (MIHP) within MDHHS to maximize desired outcomes;
3. Promote value of home visiting programs that support maternal and child health, nurturing parent-child relationships and optimal developmental outcomes;
4. Direct resources and programs to communities with highest infant mortality rates and racial and ethnic disparities in birth outcomes, and hold those communities accountable to achieve goals;
5. Work to assure access across the state to medically appropriate levels of prenatal, obstetrical and perinatal care with the goal of creating/reestablishing a true regionalized system; and
6. Emphasize and encourage adoption of policies to support breastfeeding as optimal nutrition for infants that promotes health, development and nurturing mother-baby relationships.

Child and Adolescent Health

**Goal:** Build a family and person-centered continuum of care and multi-disciplinary approach for children and young adults to assess all facets of their health, learn to prevent health risks, and develop the knowledge and skills needed to make healthy decisions for lifelong health habits and optimal development.

**Specific policies MCMCH members support:**
1. Promote child and adolescent mental health;
2. Advocate for policies that promote health, safety, and school success by utilizing coordinated school health, including implementation of the Michigan Model for Health;
3. Provide access to and reimbursement for primary care for all school-aged children through school-based and school-linked health centers and school nurses with adequate and sustainable funding;
4. Work on policies that prevent childhood injuries including all forms of child abuse and neglect; and
5. Support the need for and funding of special health care services for children with a focus on access to care and family involvement.

**Strategies for Action on Policy Agenda**

*These strategies will serve both as a driving force for advocacy and as criteria for evaluating the effectiveness of the Council.*

1. Use advocacy, direct lobbying and contract lobby services to educate policymakers on the value of health and prevention services for mothers, children and their families.
2. Work in collaboration with other stakeholders on agenda items.
3. Convene stakeholders across systems on specific agenda items (quarterly meetings).
4. Promote adequate surveillance of key health and service indicators and outcomes.
5. Promote investment in evidence-based practices.
6. Support sustained funding of services that have demonstrated outcomes.
7. Enable consumer voices to speak on key health and service issues at all levels.
8. Prepare policy papers with background on maternal and child health issues emphasizing the value of prevention outcomes and the return on investment.
**Action Agenda for 2018**

*These specific items correlate to our policy agenda and are likely to see action in 2018. We will dedicate the bulk of our resources and efforts to support the following issues.*

**Medicaid**
Support preservation of Medicaid rates for all services with a focus on obstetrical care, pediatric specialty care, oral health, primary care and support services; advocate with congressional members on Medicaid and CHIP; oppose efforts to block grant funds; and utilize outcomes data for Medicaid-eligible women and children to demonstrate to lawmakers the importance of Medicaid coverage.

**Policy Priorities**
Educate and work with partners to create and advocate for policy, legislation, funding, and strategies to improve and support the following:

**Home Visiting**
- Reinforce the benefits of support and coaching for families in health and development such as home visiting
- Voice strong support for continuation of federal Maternal Infant Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) funding
- Work to establish a state advisory committee for home visiting across all models; convene providers for grassroots advocacy
- Seek appropriation or earmark for statewide needs assessment for home visiting

**Perinatal Regionalization**
- Re-establish perinatal regionalization in Michigan
- Provide policy support for regional perinatal collaboratives
- Encourage Medical Services Administration to cover progesterone for pregnant women prenatally to prevent premature delivery

**Prevention of Unintended Pregnancies**
- Advocate for policy to allow Medicaid reimbursement for LARC insertion immediately following delivery; also advocate with private insurers to follow suit

**Breastfeeding/Availability of Breastmilk**
- Call for Medicaid coverage of banked breastmilk for premature infants
- Continue monitoring availability of breast pumps

**Environmental Toxins**
- Prevention and remediation of lead and other environmental toxins for pregnant women and children
- Ensure every child with elevated lead levels has access to case management services locally
- Monitor PFAS and other toxins for specific impacts on pregnant women and children
- Support efforts to fund infrastructure that can improve public health
Prevention of Unintentional Childhood Injuries
- Support passage of updated safety seat law to meet national standards

Prevention of Violence Against Children and Women
- Require continuing education on child abuse and neglect for all licensed health care providers
- Support efforts to expand mandated reporter law adding additional professionals

School Health
- Support coordinated school health and the roles of school-based and school-linked health centers, school nurses, and school health coordinators
- Modernize the Michigan Model for Health into a digital web-based format
- Collaborate with stakeholders, MDHHS and CMS to determine a sustainable Medicaid matched payment mechanism to ensure nursing and mental health services in school settings throughout Michigan

Mental Health
- Advocate for the distinct mental health and substance use disorder prevention needs of children and women (prenatal and postnatal)
- Monitor the physical/behavioral integration and opioid abuse discussions for opportunities to enhance services
- Support warning labels and posting requirements for marijuana products
- Expand opportunities for training on the impact of adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) and the need for trauma-informed care
- Support efforts to require ACES screening and direct funding to appropriate care

Maternal Mortality and Infant Mortality
- Participate in statewide efforts with the Infant Mortality Advisory Council and the Michigan Alliance for Innovation on Maternal Health for reduction in mortality rates
- Work to raise awareness of mortality rates
- Fight for resources to fund reduction strategies
- Share best practices
- Change policy to support improved outcomes

Increasing Access
Work with partners to improve access to, reimbursement for, and utilization of the following maternal and child health services:

Oral Health
- Promote preventive oral health care and quality dental homes
- Lead advocacy coalition to support legislation to license dental therapists

Special Health Care Services for Children
- Ensure the continuation of quality and timely care for all those eligible for these services

Childhood Immunizations
- Seek legislation to require health insurers to reimburse local public health departments
• Empower and organize parent voices to advocate for immunization education
• Oppose efforts to change current parent education requirements for waivers

Behavioral Health
• Educate and advocate on the importance of timely psychiatric placement as needed
• Implement recommendations from the MIPAD initiative

Transportation
• Advocate for further availability of transportation to facilitate access to services

Pediatric End of Life Care
• Build awareness and expand options for pediatric palliative care, hospice and bereavement services
• Ensure advance directives for minors are honored in all settings