



The Meadowlark Initiative®

**STATE-TRIBAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE
INTRODUCTION PRESENTATION | FEBRUARY 10, 2026**

Today's Presenters & Agenda



Tressie White
MHCFC Program
Director

- ▶ **Overview**
- ▶ **System of Care**
- ▶ **Progress to Date**
- ▶ **Questions**
- ▶ **Contact Us!**

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The Meadowlark Initiative[®]

HEALTHY PREGNANCIES
& SECURE FAMILIES



Slide 3

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You may choose to show the promo video as part of this presentation.

If so, please move this slide to wherever it makes the most sense in the presentation.

Before the presentation, check to make sure the video and audio are playing correctly.

Here is the direct link to the video if you need it.

<https://vimeo.com/user74639167/meadowlark>

Melinda Buchheit, 2022-10-19T15:31:47.682



The Meadowlark Initiative®

Overview

The Meadowlark Initiative[®]

INTEGRATING PRENATAL CARE AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH TO IMPROVE MATERNAL AND NEONATAL OUTCOMES

The Meadowlark Initiative brings together clinical and community teams to

- ▶ **PROVIDE** the right care at the right time for women and families.
- ▶ **IMPROVE** health outcomes for mothers and babies.
- ▶ **KEEP FAMILIES TOGETHER** and children out of foster care.



The Meadowlark Initiative

A new standard of pregnancy care

The Meadowlark Initiative provides routine screening for mental illness and substance use disorders to all women during prenatal and postpartum appointments as a new standard of pregnancy care.

Women with any concerns identified through screening are offered evaluation and treatment options right away.

Of the 10,000 deliveries in Montana each year, **Meadowlark care providers now screen more than 6,000 pregnant women** for substance misuse, depression, and anxiety.



The Meadowlark Initiative

A new standard of pregnancy care

The Meadowlark Initiative's goal is to make Meadowlark care available in every Montana community with a delivery hospital.

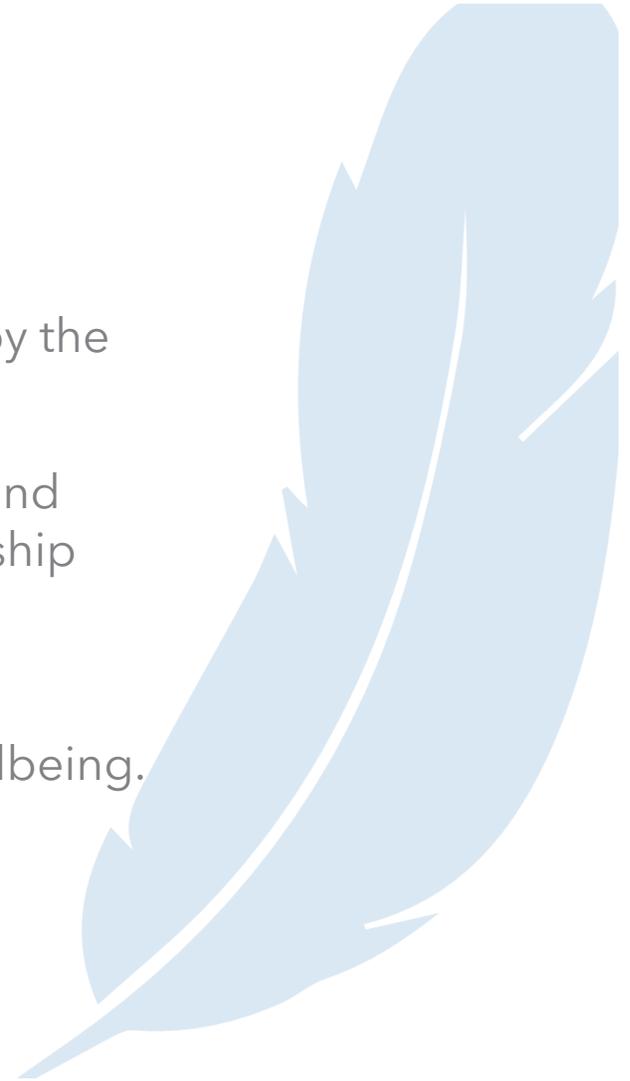
To date, The Meadowlark Initiative is available in 19 of the 24 delivering hospitals in the state. Seven of the eight tribes have access to a Meadowlark site



Brief History & Partnerships

A new standard of pregnancy care

- ▶ The Meadowlark Initiative was established in 2017 by the Montana Healthcare Foundation (MHCF).
- ▶ In 2019, the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS) formed a funding partnership with MHCF to support the initiative.
- ▶ MHCF and DPHHS lead the initiative with technical assistance from the National Council for Mental Wellbeing.



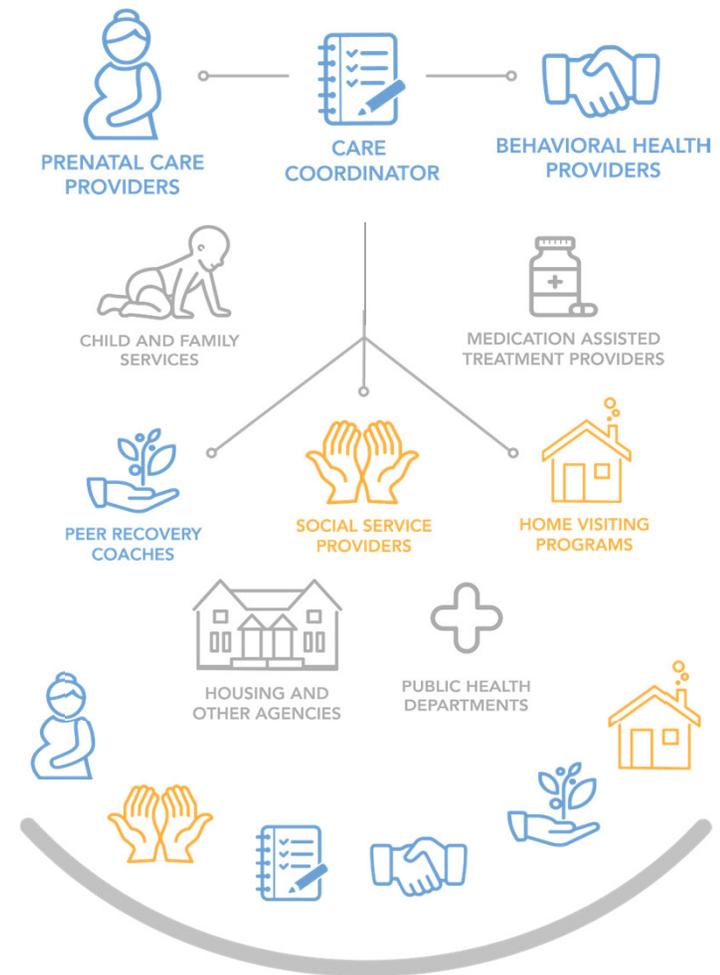


The Meadowlark Initiative: System of Care

System of Care

Clinical and community teams collaborate to provide integrated prenatal and behavioral health care and coordinate community-based support and services that families need.

This simple system has been shown to **reduce newborn drug exposure**, **improve maternal and neonatal outcomes**, and **reduce the need for foster care placement**.



The Clinical Team

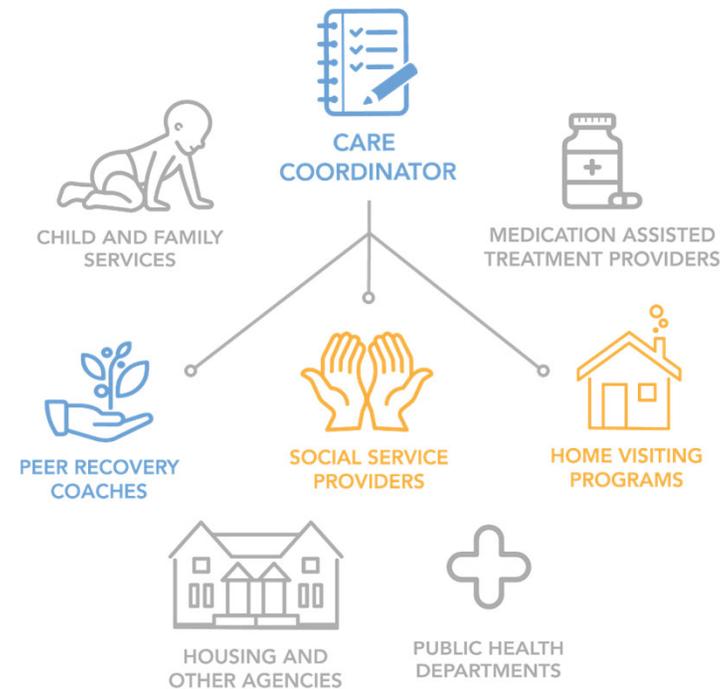


Mothers and their families receive care from prenatal and behavioral health providers with support from a care coordinator. **These three make up the core of the Clinical Team.**

The Community Team

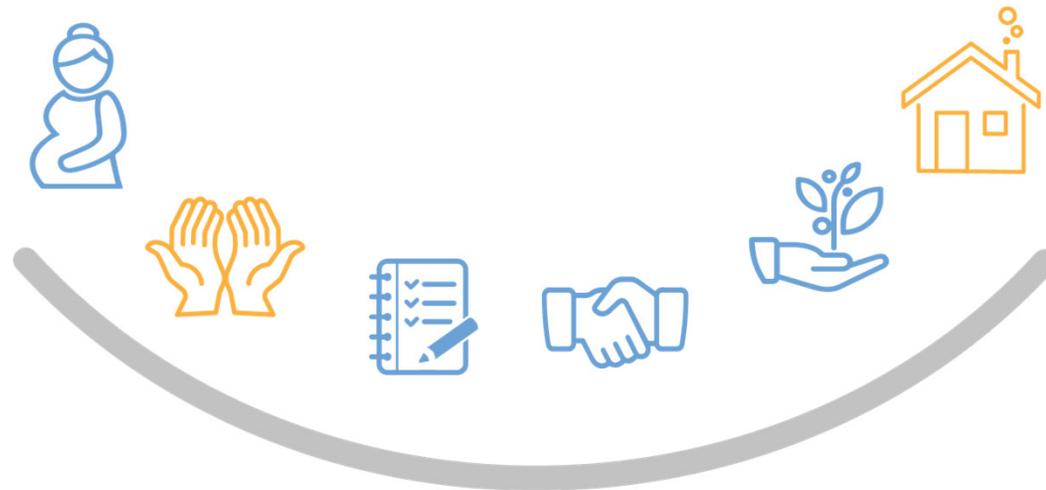
The Community Team consists of a group of agencies and organizations that can provide critically needed support for pregnant and postpartum women and their families.

The Care Coordinator helps build and coordinate the Community Team.



The Patient Support System

The Clinical Team and Community Team work collaboratively to form a support system for the patient and their family.





The Meadowlark Initiative: Progress to Date

The Meadowlark Initiative

A new standard of pregnancy care



- Meadowlark care is available in **19** of the 24 delivering hospitals in the state.
- **Seven** of the eight tribes have access to a Meadowlark site.



Meadowlark Programs on or Near Montana Tribal Nations

- ▶ Blackfeet Meadowlark
- ▶ Rocky Boy Health Center
- ▶ Northeast Montana Health Center, Fort Peck, Wolf Point, Poplar
- ▶ Northern Montana Hospital, Havre
- ▶ St. Joseph Medical Center, Polson
- ▶ St. Luke Healthcare, Ronan
- ▶ One Health Hardin, Crow Nation
- ▶ Logan Health, Kalispell



The Meadowlark Initiative

A new standard of pregnancy care

- ▶ **Grantees are required to collaborate with tribes or urban Indian health centers to develop a strong collaboration with the appropriate tribal or urban Indian health centers if caring for a substantial number of American Indian families.**



Data/evaluation update

- ▶ Clinical data from grantees indicate that the majority of Meadowlark patients are screened at least once during the perinatal period for behavioral health conditions.
 - 80% screened for depression, 80% for anxiety, and 71% for substance use disorders
 - Across 8 grantees representing nearly 3,500 births, about 26% of patients screened at risk for SUD. In this same cohort, there were 24 cases of neonatal abstinence syndrome (NAS).
- ▶ The Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System (PRAMS) asks about illicit drug use before and during pregnancy but doesn't specify which drug. Prevalence by race in 2022 was 10% among White Montanans, 20% among AI Montanans.





The Meadowlark Initiative: Questions!



The Meadowlark Initiative:
Contact Us!

Contact Us!

- ▶ For more information about The Meadowlark Initiative, please visit our website.
 - mthcf.org/the-meadowlark-initiative
- ▶ For more information about participating in the initiative, please email us.
 - **Tressie White** tressie.white@mthcf.org



A photograph of a woman with dark hair smiling warmly at a baby. The baby is wearing a light pink shirt and looking towards the camera. The background shows a nursery with a crib and a patterned blanket. The text "Thank You." is overlaid in white on the left side of the image.

Thank You.

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