

Project Detroit: Voices for Life

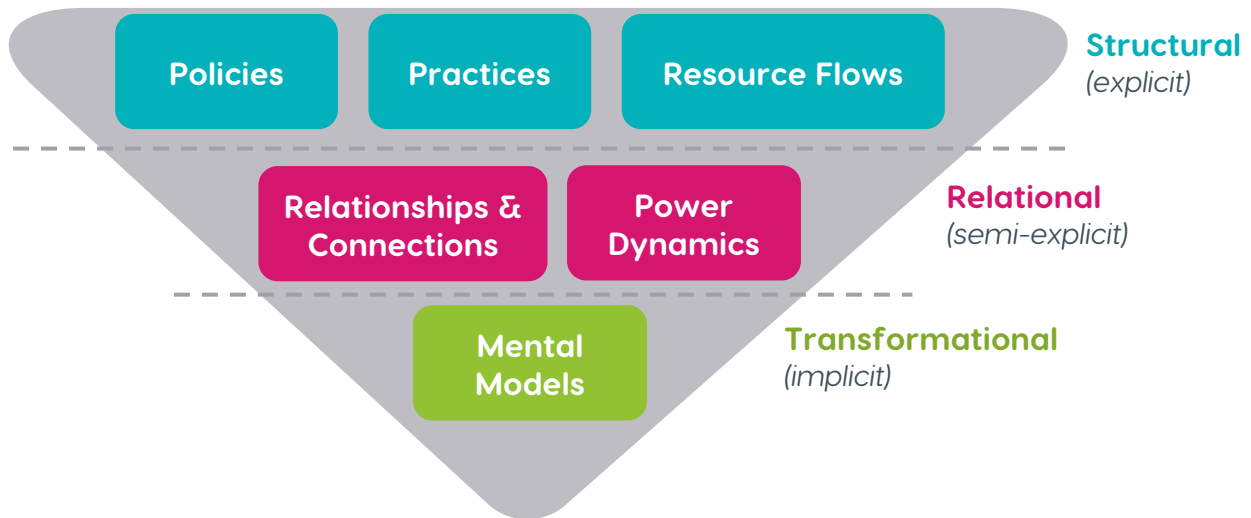
Year 1 & 2 Partner Accomplishments



About the Project

Project Detroit: Voices for Life (VFL) was established to build on existing community assets to examine and replicate circumstances and conditions where Black mothers thrive, empowering Black women to advocate for the best perinatal care experiences, and lead care providers to reach their full potential in providing respectful and equitable care for Detroit women. This project is funded as part of the second cohort under Merck for Mother’s Safer Childbirth Cities initiative. Program partners include the Detroit Health Department (DHD), Black Mothers Breastfeeding Association (BMBFA), Henry Ford Health, and Focus: HOPE. Work on the project began in January 2021. This brief shares Year 1 and 2 partner accomplishments within the **Levels of Systems Change**.

Six Levels of Systems Change

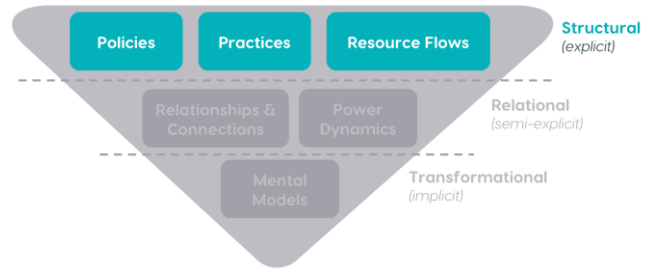


Partners & Project Efforts of Each Partner

The following partner project efforts and the accomplishments within each effort during Year 1 and Year 2 of *Project Detroit: Voices for Life* are shared in this brief, by level of systems change:

	Partners				
	BMBFA, DHD, & Focus: HOPE	BMBFA & Focus: HOPE	Henry Ford Health	Detroit Health Department	
Efforts					
	100 Voices	Doulas	Unconscious Bias	MMVRT	Project Detroit: VFL

Structural Change Level Year 1 & 2 Accomplishments



POLICY Accomplishments



Unconscious Bias

- Unconscious bias training mandated for all women's health services team members and incorporated into annual new resident orientation.
- Institutionalizing bias and DEIJ (diversity, equity, inclusion, and justice) education through Women's Health Grand Rounds and microlearning sessions.
- Received Institutional Review Board (IRB) approval to administer Respectful Care Survey to patients who give birth at Henry Ford hospital.



Doulas

- The Detroit Community-based Doula Task Force was rebirthed.
- The Task Force contributed to collective public comments in response to the proposed policy for Michigan Coverage of Doula Services.



Maternal Mortality and Vitality Review Team (MMVRT)

- Established MMVRT with cross sector membership at Detroit Health Department
- Obtained MDHHS approval for chart abstraction in City of Detroit
- Published recommendations for changes in systems, individuals, public health advocacy, health systems, and social/mental health.

Year 1 & 2 Accomplishments: Structural Change Level

PRACTICES Accomplishments



100 Voices

110

women received storytelling training

86

women told their stories



Doulas

14

doulas graduated from Cohort 1 of the Community-Based Doula Training

16

trainees enrolled in Cohort 2 of the Doula training

3

Focus: HOPE home-based teachers became trained doulas

1

Focus: HOPE mental health coordinator became a trained doula

3

graduates participated in a paid Health-Connect One doula pilot program



Unconscious Bias

3

Women's Health Grand Rounds on bias and DEIJ topics, with approx. 100 people attending each

213

providers attended Reducing Unconscious Bias an Imperative (RUBI) for Maternal Health training



MMVRT

22

maternal mortality cases reviewed

Year 1 & 2 Accomplishments: **Structural Change Level**

RESOURCE FLOWS Accomplishments



100 Voices

- Creating storyboards and videos of storytellers that can be used by collaborator organizations and in empowerment campaign.



Doulas

- Culturally appropriate community-based doula training available in Detroit.
- The Detroit Community-based Doula Task Force drafted a doula resource guide.



Unconscious Bias

- Established contract with Without Exception team to provide bias and DEIJ microlearning through Grand Rounds.
- Established contract with The Birth Place Lab to use Mothers on Respect Index and Mother Autonomy and Decision Making Index within HFH.



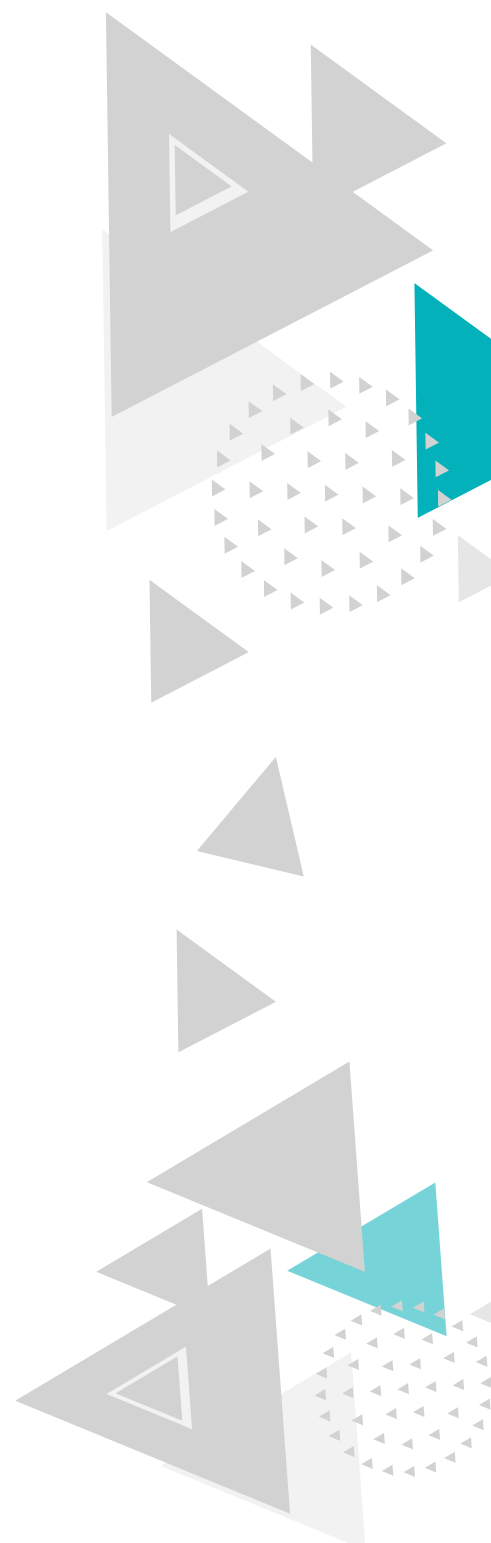
MMVRT

- Hired MMVRT coordinator and case abstractor.



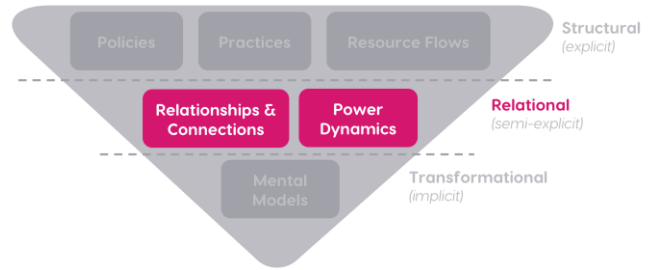
Project Detroit: Voices for Life

- Productive Synergy across agencies in perinatal and family services.



Relational Change Level Year 1 & 2 Accomplishments

RELATIONSHIPS & CONNECTIONS Accomplishments



100 Voices

- Connection with national colleagues; coordination of recruitment effort; women find connections within storytelling training.
- Project partners collaborated to recruit and train storytellers and design empowerment campaign.
- Storytelling trainees reported that they plan on sharing their story with others.



Doulas

- Doula trainees report that “the peer support and connection with others” is what they like most about the doula training.
- The community-based doula training was also supported by UnitedHealthcare Community Plan, a Medicaid Managed Health Plan.
- Members of the Community-based Doula Task Force created a doula support group.
- The Detroit Doula Pilot Program, a paid doula opportunity, was made available to doula training graduates and Task Force members through HealthConnect One, The Doula Network and Meridian Health.



Unconscious Bias

- Established learning collaboratives for Women’s Health providers.
- Established relationship with The Birth Place Lab.



MMVRT

- MMVRT consists of members from diverse sectors, such as mental health, health care, EMS, social work, domestic violence, and community representatives.
- Established relationship with university researchers to access a source of maternal vitality data.

Year 1 & 2 Accomplishments: **Relational Change Level**



Project Detroit: Voices for Life

- Increased collaboration, stronger partnerships, and networking between project partners.
- Engaged Southeast Michigan Perinatal Quality Improvement Coalition membership in project efforts.

POWER DYNAMICS Accomplishments



100 Voices

- Storytelling trainees learned something new about their own story and felt prepared and empowered to share their story with others
- Established 15-woman expert panel to serve as empowerment campaign design team



Doulas

- Doula trainees reported an increase in knowledge about pregnancy, birth, and the postpartum period.
- Confidence levels of doula trainees grew by 77% over the 20-week doula training.



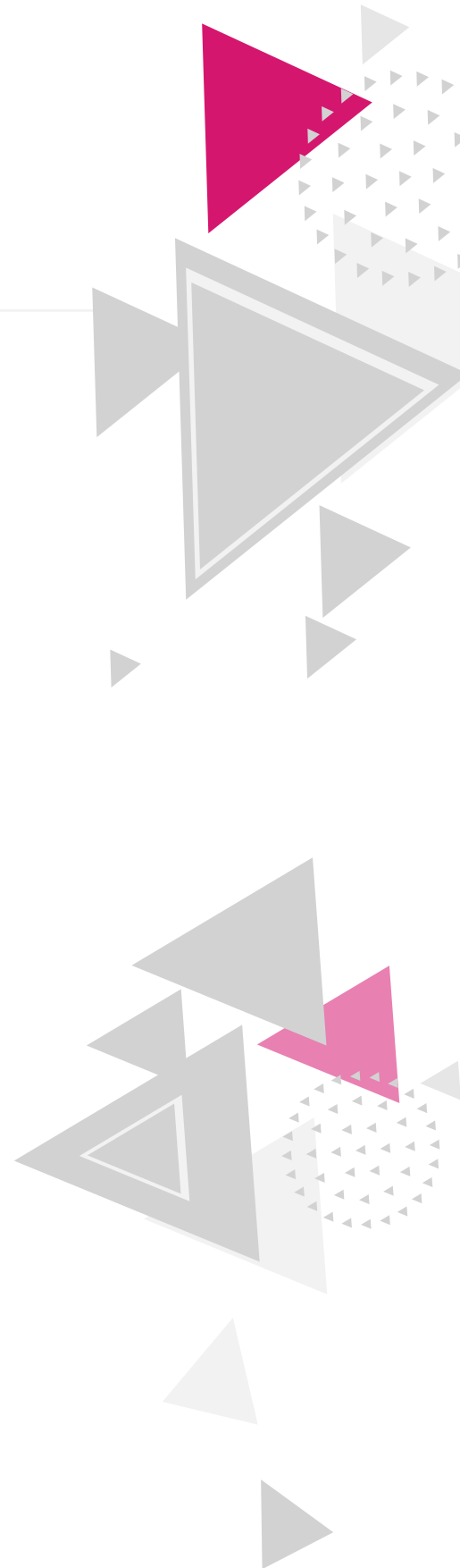
Unconscious Bias

- Establishing respectful care survey to elevate patient voice.



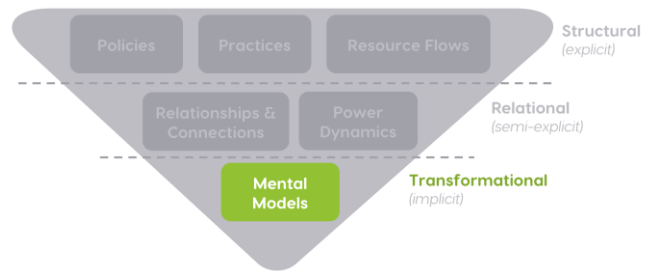
MMVRT

- MMVRT meetings included 1-2 community members with lived experience.



Transformational Change Level

Year 1 & 2 Accomplishments



MENTAL MODELS Accomplishments



100 Voices

- Designing media empowerment campaign with storytelling videos that will spread message of respectful, equitable care and maternal vitality.
- Developed pilot videos featuring 9 storytellers.
- Developing final videos featuring 15 storytellers.



Doulas

- Doula trainees and Task Force Members are better equipped to advocate for more respectful maternal child health care.



Unconscious Bias

- Providers who attend RUBI training reported change in understanding and recognition of unconscious bias and beliefs regarding care for BIPOC patients.



MMVRT

- All MMVRT meetings include a facilitated equity exercise to keep equity at the forefront.
- MMVRT members reported increased understanding of how inequities impact maternal health and are able to apply this learning in the review process and beyond.