

Lincoln County
City-County Board of Health Agenda
Lincoln County Courthouse
6:00 PM, September 14, 2021

- **Call to Order**
 - Pledge of Allegiance
 - Roll Call
- **Public Comment on Agenda Items**
- **Public Comment on Items Not on Agenda**
- **Approval of Minutes**
 - 6/8/21
- **Unfinished Business**
 - Ground rules and mission statement update
- **New Business**
 - Update from Libby Care Center
 - Update from Cabinet Peaks Medical Center
 - Discussion of CDC guidelines for vaccination of children
- **Program Reports:**
 - **Public Health**
 - Communicable disease update
 - Quarantine requirements
 - Booster vs 3rd Dose
 - Crisis mapping of postpartum women
 - **Environmental Health**
 - Air quality update
 - **Solid Waste and Recycling**
 - *Action Item:* Libby Landfill Asbestos Cell O&M approval
 - **Asbestos Resource Program**
 - O&M Update
- **Focus Area Liaisons:**
 - **Superfund Sites**
 - Asbestos:
 - Groundwater
- **City Representative Reports**
- **Health Officer Report**
- **Adjourn**

**Lincoln County
City-County Board of Health Minutes
Lincoln County Courthouse
6:00 PM, June 8, 2021**

- **Call to Order at 6:00 p.m.**
 - Pledge of Allegiance
 - Roll Call: Jan Ivers, Josh Letcher (via Zoom), Jim Seifert, Sara Mertes, Amy Fantozzi, Deb Armstrong (via Zoom). Quorum present.
- **Public Comment on Agenda Items**
 - None
- **Public Comment on Non-Action Items**
 - Evan Cobella addressing an item on April 13 minutes. She requests an apology from Mr. Seifert for his statements at last meeting regarding a letter that she could not find anywhere attached to minutes or on Health Department site. She is shown area on site where that letter was posted attached to March minutes.
 - Mick Walters, Chapter Leader for local John Birch Society, expresses disapproval of Jim Seifert's appointment to the Board of Health.
 - Diane Watson (via Zoom) asked where to find letter attached to March minutes as she could not hear due to crosstalk previously. It is explained to Diane where to find that document on the website.
- **Approval of Minutes**
 - Amy Fantozzi motioned to accept 4/13/2021 and 5/12/21 minutes. Jan, Josh, Jim, Sara, Amy, Deb vote in favor. Motion passed.
- **Unfinished Business**
 - None
- **New Business**
 - *Action Item* – Deb motioned: “When PCR test results are used in county epidemiology studies to justify any public health decision, the cycle threshold of positive cases must also be included as public record.”
 - Discussion of work PCR cycle. Jim Murphy, State Epidemiologist, discussed PCR testing, which labs provide cycle threshold levels, cutoff values, etc.
 - Public Comment on Action Item:
 - Diane Watson (via zoom) expressed her support for action item motion.
 - Dr. Brad Black expressed his reasons for not supporting action item motion.
 - *Action Item vote* – Deb motioned: “When PCR test results are used in county epidemiology studies to justify any public health decision, the cycle threshold of positive cases must also be included as public record.” Deb, Josh vote in favor. Motion is not passed.
 - Board member opening: Scott Bernhard has given his resignation from the Board effective May 18, 2021. Per Clerk and Recorder, the opening has to be advertised. Vacancy will be in Tobacco Valley News and Western News the following week. It is advertised as North Lincoln County preference, with term expiring December 21, 2022.
 - New Legislation: Jinnifer Merriman, Special Deputy County Attorney, for purposes of advising the Board as general counsel and assisting County Attorney's office as needed on matters that may arise, discussed HB257 and HB121 that directly effect the BOH.

- **Program Reports:**
 - **Community**
 - None
 - **Public Health**
 - Jennifer McCully presented the LCHD 2020 Annual Report
 - COVID-19 Update: Cases are going down with 3 active cases at that time. Vaccine administration is also slowing down at his time. Looking for creative ways to get those out there to the public.
 - Public Comment: Diane Watson (via zoom) discussed her disapproval of the vaccine
 - **Environmental Health**
 - Update on Panoramic View dust complaints: Kathi provided follow-up re: public comments from Taylor Loop residents during previous BOH meeting. She reported the access road to Panoramic View had been chip sealed the past week. Kathi has reached out to residents to get their feedback. It was only the access road that was chip sealed, so contact with Panoramic View landowners and subdivision to see how they plan to treat the rest of the road.
 - **Solid Waste and Recycling**
 - Draft Class IV Asbestos Cell O&M: Kathi said that draft was updated last week. Kathi invited Board member to get a tour of the landfill if they would like to have that for reference.
 - Bryan Alkire described that an Operation & Maintenance Plan is a required document that contains a description of the site, it's equipment, the work practices and safety plans, and maintenance schedule to ensure the system is operating in such a way as to protect human health and the environment.
 - **Asbestos Resource Program**
 - Virginia Kocieda gave O&M and Asbestos Resource Program updates.
 - **Focus Area Liaisons:**
 - Liaison position is vacant. No update at this time.
 - Jinnifer Merriman suggested George Jamison have the opportunity to continue as liaison as he has vast knowledge in this area.
- **City Representative Reports**
 - Troy City Council: Jim Seifert reported his position and appointment process to the BOH will be discussed at upcoming City Council meeting.
 - No update on Libby City Council.
 - No update on Eureka City Council.
- **Health Officer Report**
 - Discussed his concern for the upcoming winter and year, hoping that residents continue to get vaccinated.
 - Josh Letcher initiated discussion on prescribed medicines and alternate protocols for COVID 19 treatment.
- **Jim motioned to adjourn. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 7:58 p.m. Next meeting Tuesday, July 20, 2021.**

PCR CYCLE THRESHOLDS- recap

PCR tests are done to detect genetic material from a specific organism, such as SARS-CoV-2. This test has been used by the Lincoln County Health Department to verify current COVID-19 illness and to quantify the spread of COVID-19 in our community. The results of these tests have informed public health policies such as quarantining people who test positive and mask mandates. There has been much discussion of how these measures have harmed individuals and our communities in terms of mental health, physical health, and economic health.

The PCR test is an **amplification** process that is necessary to detect very small genetic material. The term 'cycle threshold' refers to the number of cycles needed to amplify the viral RNA to reach a detectable level. The number of cycles needed to return a positive result is directly and inversely proportional to the viral load. In other words, the higher the cycle threshold needed to produce a positive result, the more likely the test is to detect viral genetic material that is essentially dead. A PCR test cannot differentiate between viral material that is contagious and that which is incapable of replicating, and therefore harmless. The only way for this test to contribute any meaningful data is to know how many cycles were needed to return a positive result.

I hope you all took the time to listen to the video I sent of an interview that was done in July, 2020 with Dr. Fauci. During this interview, Dr. Fauci stated: "...if you get a cycle threshold of 35 or more, that the chances of it being replication competent is miniscule ... you almost never can culture virus on the 37 threshold cycle so I think that if somebody does come in with 37, 38, even 36, you've got to say, you know, it's just dead nucleotides, period."

When the PCR test was given Emergency Use Authorization to detect SARS CoV-2, the CDC recommended that labs set the cycle threshold for PCR tests at **40 cycles**. This high limit might make sense if you're trying to get a very general idea of how wide-spread an infectious agent might have become in a community.

However, the Lincoln County Health Officer and Health Department, with the Health Board's knowledge and consent, have continued to use PCR tests to "confirm" current and active COVID-19 cases without knowing the cycle threshold that was needed to produce the positive result. We end up with a number that represents positive COVID tests, but we have no context in which to place that number, and therefore no idea what it actually means. I would hate to think that anyone might have been quarantined in our county because they had "dead nucleotides".

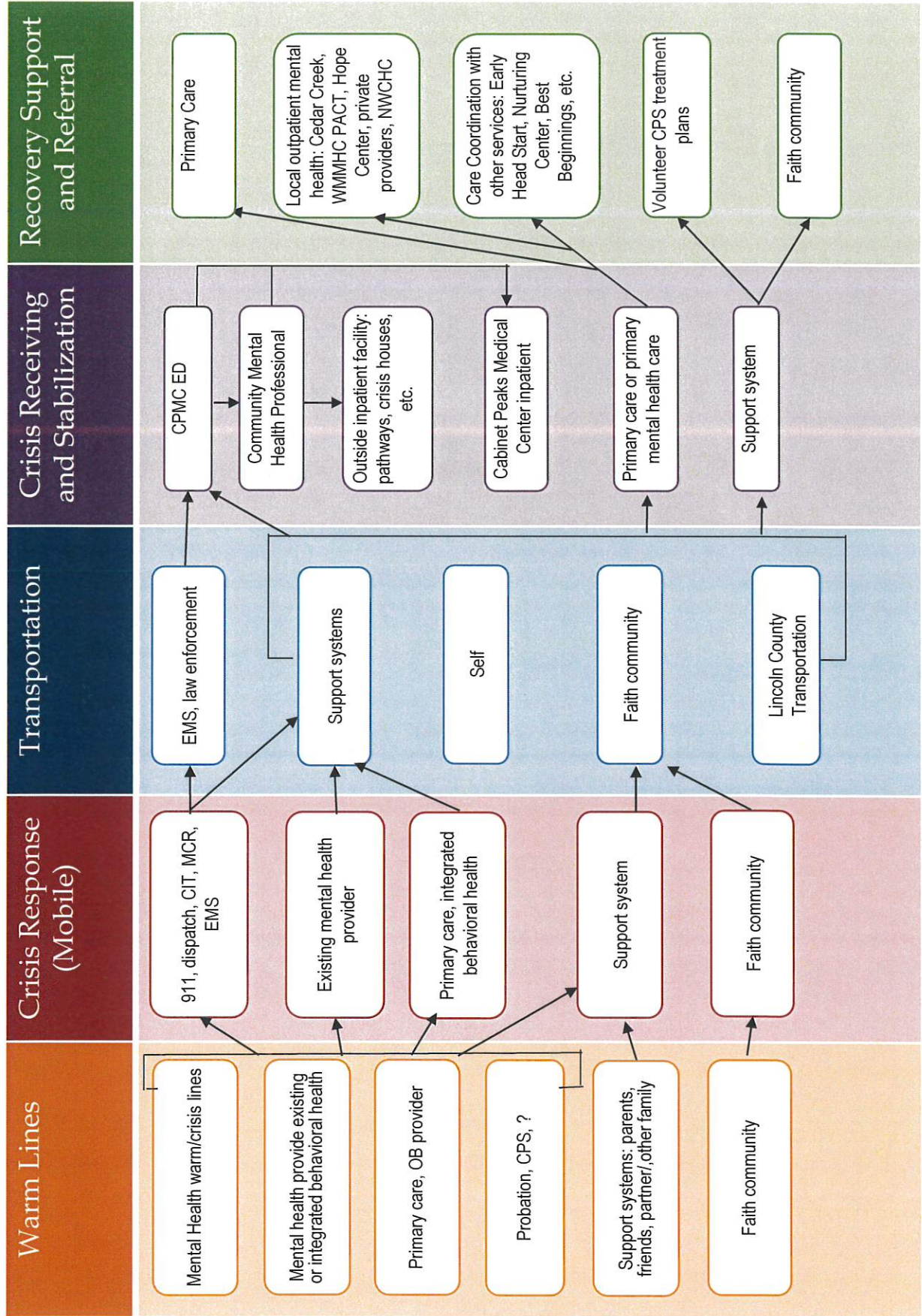
The CDC has been researching 'breakthrough' cases of COVID in fully vaccinated people. In April, they issued new guidelines for laboratories that recommend reducing the PCR cycle threshold limit to 28 cycles for those patients. This means that if over 29 cycles would be needed to detect SARS-CoV-2 in the sample, the test will return a negative. The guidelines also state that "the health department will also request the specimen ID numbers and the cycle threshold (Ct) value for positive RT-PCR results."

There have been many requests by citizens of Lincoln County to know the cycle threshold limit that is used for Lincoln County tests, all of which have gone unanswered. The ordering physician, the County Health Officer, or the Health Department may request that this value be reported along with positive test results

I request that the following action item be placed on the agenda for the June 6, 2021 meeting: When PCR test results are used in county epidemiology studies to justify any public health decision, the cycle threshold of positive cases must also be included.

Making the cycle threshold public will help assure that accurate and meaningful data is being used to inform public health policies.

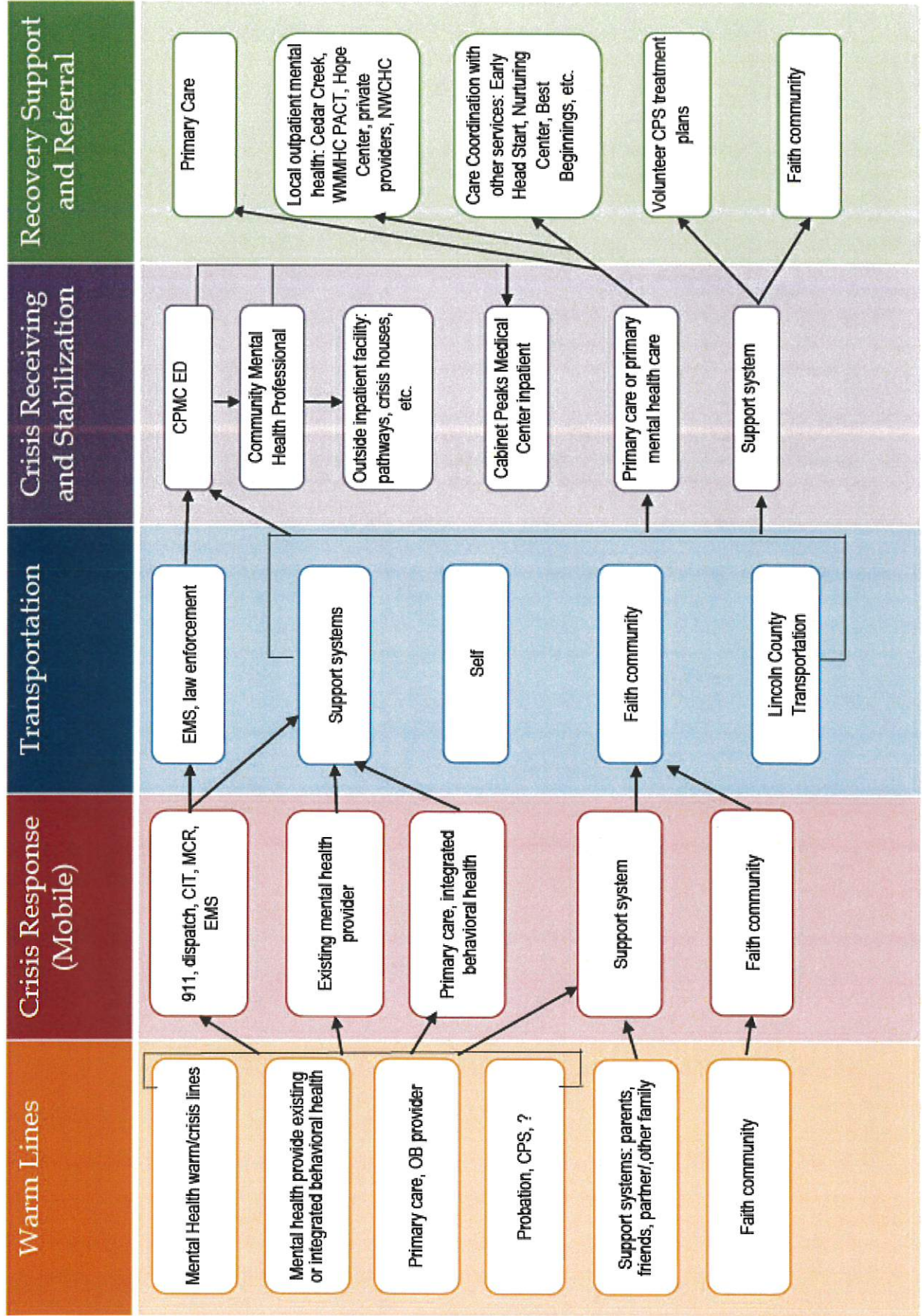
Postpartum Crisis System Map



COMMUNITY

COMMUNITY

Postpartum Crisis System Map



Workshop to map pathways for women experiencing post-partum suicidal ideation in your community

Workshop led by: Jennifer McCully, Lincoln County Public Health

Workshop date: July 18, 2021

Workshop location (address, city): Libby School Admin

Participants (name, organization):

- *Dorey Rowland, Lincoln County Zero to Five*
- *Trista Gilmore, Lincoln County Public Health Nurse*
- *Toya Laveway, Lincoln County Public Health*
- *Lesly Starling, Senior Life Solutions*
- *Beth Black, Families in Partnership*
- *Kindra Hageness, Juvenile Probation*
- *Deja Page, Lincoln County Zero to Five*

Opening and Introduction

Notes:

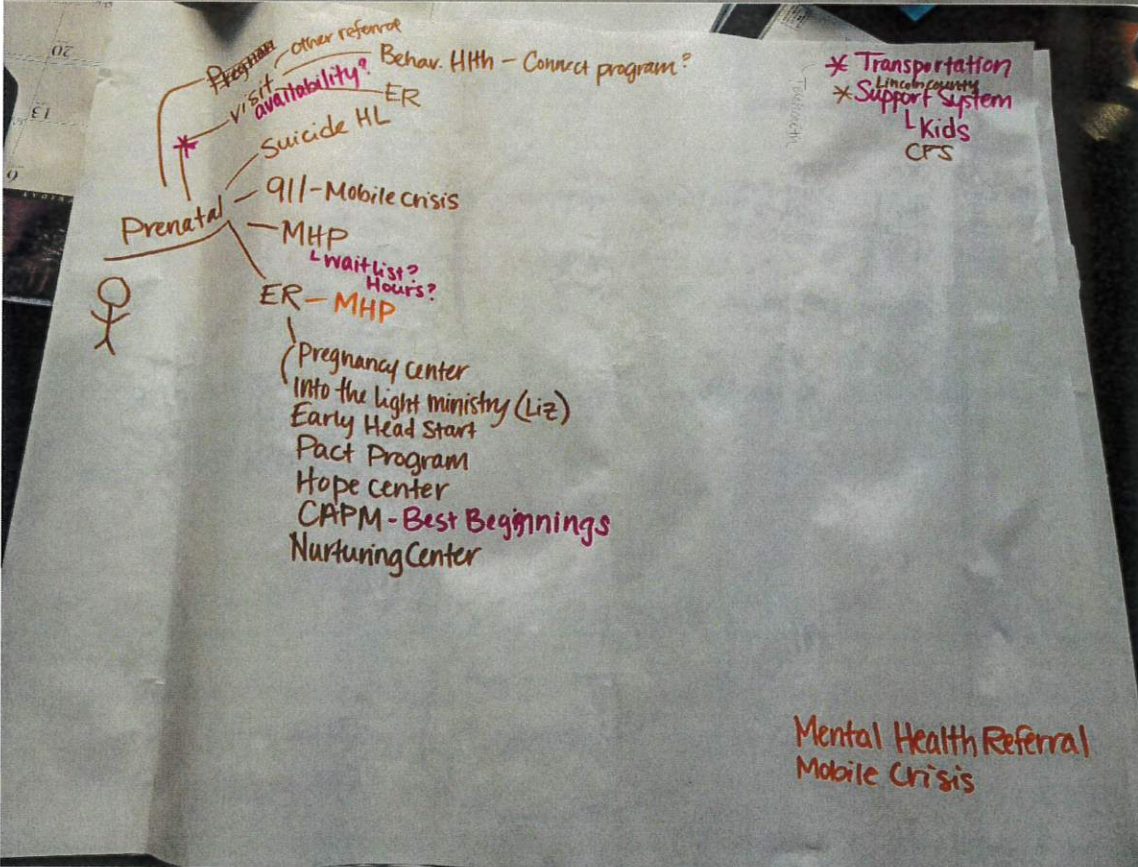
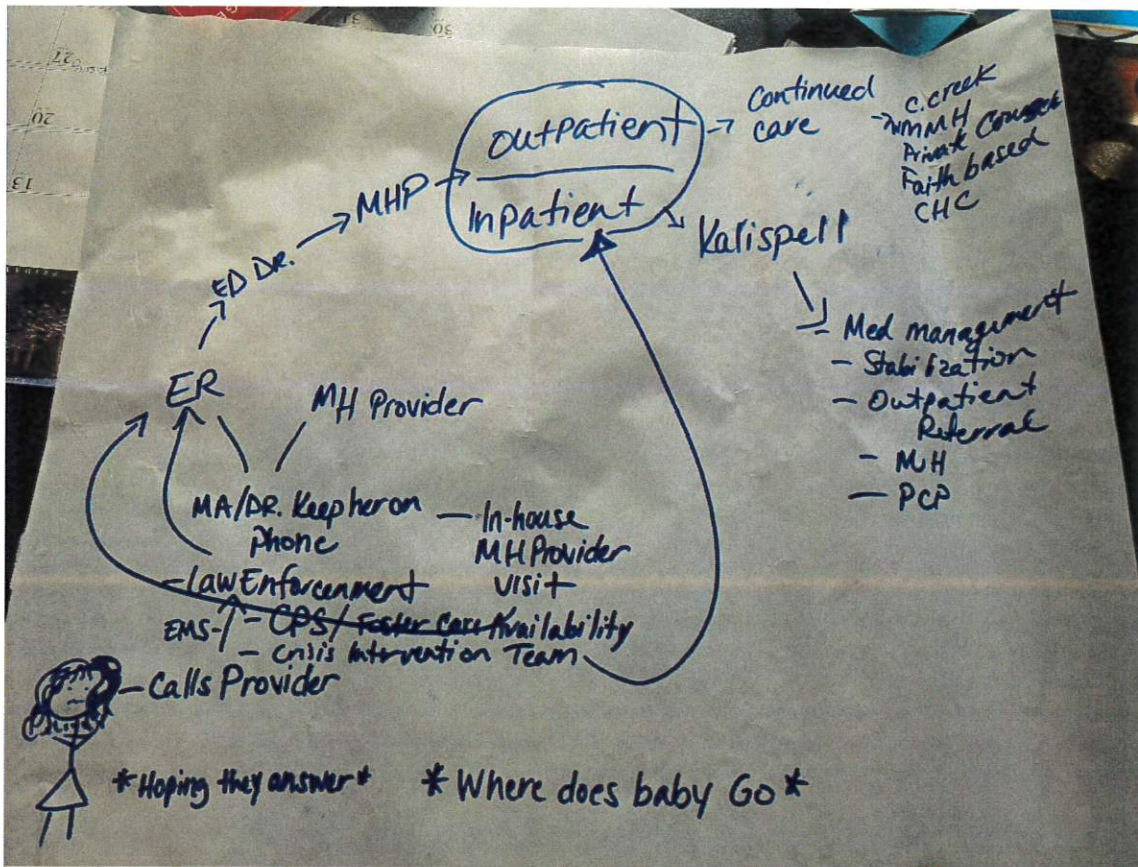
Introductions, introduction of Adult SIM and the process.

Mapping an Individual Experience

Scenario to explore: A woman in your community, who is 5 months postpartum, calls her prenatal care provider and tells them she is experiencing thoughts of suicide and is worried about self-harm. What is her path to safety?

NOTE: Please see Postpartum Crisis Mapping Meeting Run of Show/Agenda for more questions and considerations to discuss this scenario.

Pictures:



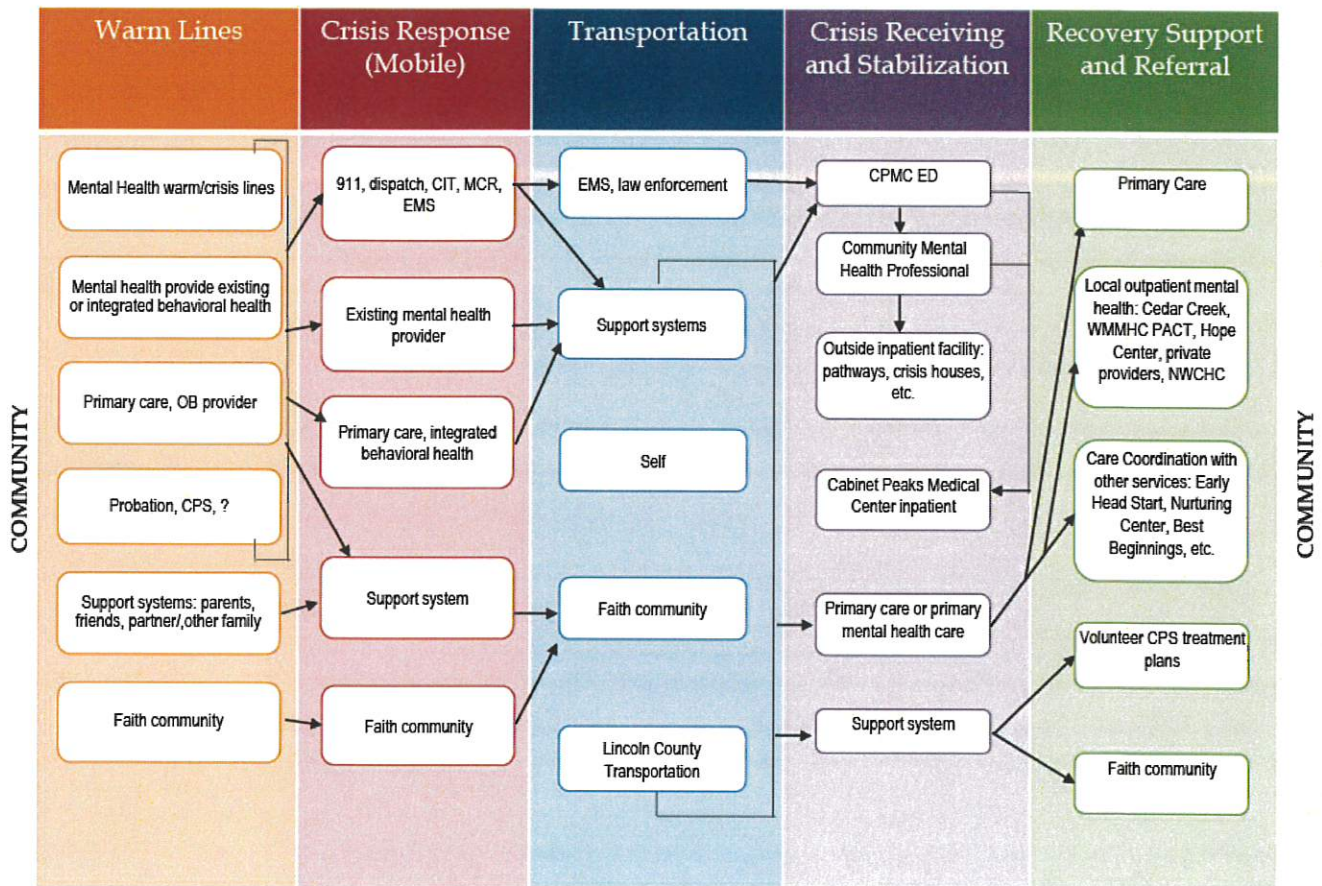
Notes:

Mapping the system that serves postpartum women in crisis

Fill out Postpartum Crisis System Map (PowerPoint)-save as picture or PDF and insert here

Other notes:

Postpartum Crisis System Map



Assessing the current system

Indicate up votes with an asterisk (*) after the item

<p>What in this system is working well?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dispatch/911/LEO • OB baskets at CPMC • Community collaboration • Prevention services • Integrated behavioral Health • New crisis response team
<p>Where is the system failing women and/or breaking down?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No or limited same day behavioral health services/provider wait time • CPMC is the hub and takes the brunt • Only one MHP • Cell phone service, lack of internet • Limited transportation • Limited care coordination • To many silos still • Low breastfeeding promotion • Regional services • Housing • Not enough screening • Lack of referral network • No safe houses • Limited volunteers • Limited daycare availability • Lack of stabilization services
<p>How could we improve the system?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parent support groups • More lactation consultation • Coordinated entry • Mobile outreach • Grant funded supports • Integrating more check-ins with mom • Better and more awareness and acceptance about postpartum depression • Rally volunteers • Make current resources known • Mental health awareness and education • Continued collaboration

Thank you and next steps

Notes:

- Youth mapping
- Share map with coalitions

When complete, upload this document in this form to e-mail this document to the Postpartum Crisis Mapping field on this form:

<https://forms.monday.com/forms/4373b10f20cf8d52dbd05e2d4e71c166?r=use1>.

If you have any questions please email Stephanie Morton at stephanie@hmhb-mi.org

Outdoor Activity Guidelines Based on Air Quality

Health Effect Category	Good	Moderate	Unhealthy for sensitive groups*	Unhealthy	Very Unhealthy/ Hazardous
Visibility (miles)	13+	9-13	5-9	2-5	Less than 2
NowCast Concentration ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$)	≤ 12	12 - 35	35 - 55	55 - 150	150 +
Outdoor Activity (15-30 minutes)	No limitations	No limitations	Sensitive groups should remain indoors as much as possible. If outdoors, limit vigorous activity.	Everyone should remain indoors as much as possible. Keep indoor activity levels light to moderate. If outdoors, keep activity levels light.	Everyone should remain indoors as much as possible. Keep indoor activity levels light.
Outdoor Activity (1 hour)	No limitations	Monitor sensitive groups and limit their vigorous activities.	Sensitive groups should remain indoors as much as possible. If outdoors, keep activities light to moderate.	Everyone should remain indoors as much as possible. Find alternative indoor activities in an environment with good air quality. Keep indoor activity levels light.	Everyone should remain indoors as much as possible. Find alternative indoor activities in an environment with good air quality. Keep indoor activity levels light.
Outdoor Activity (2-4 hours)	No limitations	Monitor sensitive groups and limit their vigorous activities.	Sensitive groups should remain indoors as much as possible. If outdoors, sensitive groups should keep activities light and avoid activities over 2 hours. Consider moving practices and events indoors. If events are not cancelled, increase rest periods to allow for lower breathing rates.	Everyone should remain indoors as much as possible. Reschedule events or relocate to an area with good air quality. Keep indoor activity levels light.	Everyone should remain indoors as much as possible. Reschedule events or relocate to an area with good air quality. Keep indoor activity levels light.

Visit www.todavsair.mt.gov for local air quality conditions and more information.

Examples of Activities

Light Activities: Walking, stretching, playing board/card games, dancing slowly, light yard work

Moderate Activities: Brisk walking, yoga, gymnastics, tennis, skateboarding, weight training, light biking/hiking, hunting, canoeing, swimming

Vigorous Activities: Aerobics, Running/jogging, competitive sports, swimming, digging, biking uphill, wheeling a wheelchair

† Please note that the intensity of an activity can vary by person and ability.

*For the purpose of this document, sensitive groups include:

- **Children (ages 0-17 years).** Children may be more sensitive to air pollution as their lungs are still developing and they may have an unknown underlying health condition.
- **People with chronic conditions.** People with chronic conditions, such as asthma or another respiratory disease, or cardiovascular disease, may be more sensitive to air pollution and should talk with their healthcare provider about managing their condition. People with chronic conditions should be medically managing their condition during air quality that is unhealthy for sensitive groups or worse. People with asthma should be following their Asthma Action Plan in all conditions.
- **Pregnant women.** During pregnancy, changes to a woman's body may increase vulnerability to environmental exposures. Additionally, during critical windows of human development, a mother's prolonged exposure to wildfire smoke may harm the developing fetus.
- **Older adults.** Older adults are at increased risk of health effects from short-term exposures to wildfire smoke because of their higher prevalence of pre-existing lung and heart diseases.



How to Use This Table and the Today's Air Website

- Start planning early. Well before your event, start monitoring the air quality by visiting the www.todaysair.mt.gov website.
 - Review the forecast on the today's air website: <http://svc.mt.gov/deg/todaysair/smokereport/mostRecentUpdate.aspx>.
 - Review the NowCast concentration measurements for your area. If your area is not near an air monitor, follow directions below for using the visibility guidelines.
 - Make adjustments to your plans depending on the forecast and the health effect category.
- Continue to monitor the air quality and the forecast in your area.
 - Be sure to leave adequate time for decisions to be made before you travel.
 - Air quality can change rapidly. Regularly review the concentration levels before and throughout lengthy events to assess for deteriorating conditions.



How to estimate air quality based on visibility:

1. Use pre-determined landmarks that were established on a clear day for distances (face away from the sun).
2. Determine the limit of your visible range by looking for targets at known distances (miles).
4. Use the visibility values in the table to determine the local wildfire smoke category.

What to Consider When Planning for Poor Air Quality

- Know which air quality monitor to reference or what geographic spots to use for visibility guidelines.
- Maintain an adequate supply of food and medication (more than five days).
- If you have a chronic lung or heart condition, check with your health care providers before the fire season about precautions to take during smoke events.
- Know how to maintain good indoor air quality.
 - Keep windows and doors closed
 - Set air conditioning or furnace blower to recirculate and close the fresh air intake.
 - Do not perform any activities that will add to indoor pollution.
 - If you plan to use a portable HEPA air cleaner, buy one prior to a smoke emergency that matches the room size specified by the manufacturer.
 - Use the air recirculate feature in vehicles when possible.
- If traveling, be aware of the air quality in the area and have a back up plan.

Protection from Particulate Matter

Wildfires, wood burning, and air stagnation increase the fine particulate matter (PM2.5/PM10) in the air we breathe. Fine particulate matter travels easily indoors, especially through doors, windows, and small openings. Over time, concentrations of fine particulate matter indoors can approach the level of concentration outdoors. Buildings with enhanced filtration will have improved indoor air quality. Supplemental use of properly sized HEPA air purifiers have been shown to improve indoor air quality by reducing particulate matter and chemicals in smoke.

Cloth face coverings and dust masks offer little protection against harmful air pollutants in wildfire smoke because these coverings do not capture most small particles in smoke. The right respirator and proper fit can reduce your exposure to wildfire smoke. Anyone with lung or heart disease should check with their health care provider before using any mask.

Visit dphhs.mt.gov/airquality for more information on air pollution and how to protect your health during poor air quality conditions.