

# WOMEN'S HEALTH INITIATIVE

VERMONT BLUEPRINT FOR HEALTH | JUNE 2017

## PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Women receive substantial preventive care services in OB-GYN and women's health clinic settings.

Through the Women's Health Initiative, women's health specialty providers are providing enhanced health and psychosocial screening along with comprehensive family planning counseling and timely access to long acting reversible contraception (LARC). New staff, training, and payments support effective follow-up to provider screenings through brief, in-office intervention and referral to services for mental health, substance use disorder, partner violence, food and housing.

Blueprint primary care practices who already provide family planning counseling can also join the Women's Health Initiative to receive a payment and training for offering same-day access to the full spectrum of birth control methods including LARC.

The Women's Health Initiative helps ensure that women's health providers, primary care practices, and community partners have the resources they need to help women be well, avoid unintended pregnancies, and build thriving families.

## WHY: HEALTHIER WOMEN, CHILDREN, AND FAMILIES

Women's health providers help women live healthy lives, and a few key supports can make them even more effective in providing preventive care, identifying health and social risks, connecting women to community supports, and helping ensure more pregnancies are intentional.

Currently in Vermont, half of all pregnancies are unintended. Unintended pregnancies are associated with increased risk of poor health outcomes for mothers and babies and long-term negative consequences for the health and wellbeing of the children and adults those babies become.

The Healthy Vermonters 2020 goal for pregnancy intention is 65%.

## WHAT: WOMEN EXPERIENCE ENHANCED SCREENING, CONNECTIONS, OPTIONS

Women who visit participating women's health providers – OB-GYN offices, midwifery practices, and family planning clinics – engage in enhanced health and psychosocial screening to assess mental health, substance use disorder, partner violence, and access to food and housing.

Women identified as at-risk are immediately connected to an initiative-funded social worker for brief intervention and counseling and referral to more intensive treatment as needed. Each social worker is a member of the Community Health Team and available to connect women with the local network of health, social, economic and community service providers.

Women also engage in comprehensive family planning counseling at participating practices. Those who tell their providers they do not want to have a baby in the coming year have access to all contraception options including immediate access to LARC. Women who wish to become pregnant receive pre-conception counseling and services.

Women who seek family planning counseling from participating Blueprint primary care practices will have access to the same resources, including same-day LARC and screening follow-ups with the area Community Health Team.

#### HOW: MULTI-DISCIPLINARY EXPERT SUPPORT, COMMUNITY IMPLEMENTATION

A per-patient, per-month payment and a one-time capacity payment support women's health care providers participating in this initiative. The same one-time capacity payment is also available to Blueprint primary care practices.

Practices work to design practice workflows to support the enhanced screening, comprehensive contraceptive counseling, and same-day LARC insertion.

A statewide Learning Collaborative offers providers and staff from practices and community organizations training in the screening model, referral processes, LARC insertion, and more.

Each participating community builds a coalition including the participating women's health practices, primary care practices, and community organizations serving youth and women at risk of unintended pregnancy. Together, they develop referral pathways that get clients quicker access to necessary services.

#### FOR MORE INFORMATION: CONTACT THE BLUEPRINT FOR HEALTH

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