

Cross-Sector Solutions for Perinatal Behavioral Health in Rural Arizona

A Multi-Agency Panel from a Medicaid Pilot

52nd Arizona Rural Health Conference

June 2nd, 2026 | Flagstaff, Arizona

Why This Matters

Rural maternal behavioral health disparities

Fragmented systems of care

Workforce shortages and access barriers

Crisis-driven vs continuous care

The NARWHAL / PPW Pilot Program



What We Learned from the Needs Assessment

Housing
instability

Transportation
barriers

Workforce
shortages

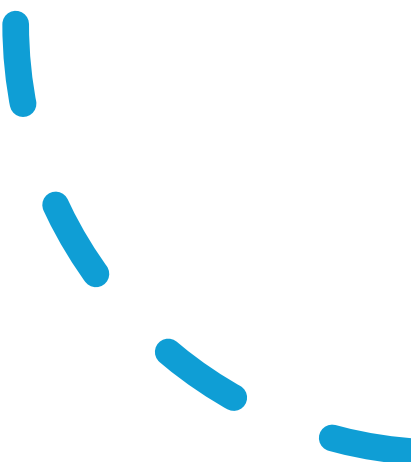
Fragmented
systems

Importance of
culturally
responsive care

Panelist	Perspective
Casandra Stouder	Indigenous maternal wellness, trauma and resilience, recovery support, culturally grounded healing, and community systems change
Stephanie Babbit	Community behavioral health leadership, integrated care, trauma-informed clinical services, and evidence-based treatment delivery in rural Arizona
Sarah Coles	Family medicine, integrated behavioral healthcare, residency training, women's health, and evidence-based primary care in rural settings
Matt Martin	Healthcare systems improvement, evaluation, practice transformation, workforce development, and maternal behavioral health implementation



Discussion Themes

- Cross-sector collaboration
 - Medicaid continuity and care coordination
 - Indigenous and culturally responsive approaches
 - Workforce and implementation realities in rural communities
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Audience Reflection / Discussion

Examples:

- “Where does care coordination break down most often in your community?”
- “What barriers most affect continuity of maternal behavioral healthcare in rural settings?”
- “What partnerships have been most effective in your region?”

Contact Information

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