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TennCare's Maternal and Infant Health Initiatives

Purpose: TennCare's overall mission is to improve lives through high-quality cost-effective care. The overall goal for this practicum was to review TennCare's Maternal and Infant Health Initiatives and establish a baseline from which to strategize the most effective ways to address maternal and infant health in TennCare's population it serves.

Design: To address the practicum goal, TennCare's current Maternal and Infant Health Initiatives, the Tennessee Department of Health's Family Health and Wellness Division, contracted managed care organizations, community partners and stakeholders, and other state Medicaid agencies were reviewed and assessed. The overall assessment was accomplished through meeting with leadership from each institution, compiling supplemental programmatic material and a thorough review of the literature.

Outcomes: The result of the project was a 61-page report detailing the above-mentioned areas of interest. The report was generated independently and was not through an internally collaborative process. Ten key recommendations were highlighted and presented to the Chief Medical Officer for review. The project presented an incredible opportunity to explore the complexity and interconnected nature of healthcare. Reviews of best practice and literature were equally informative of local and national initiatives, innovations in payment reform, and quality improvement efforts.

Interpretation: Given the scope of the project, comprehensive analysis of TennCare's current Maternal and Infant Health Initiatives

was not fully achieved. Programmatic outcomes proved difficult to obtain. This resulted in a lack of data from the focused analysis of the current initiatives. Further review of program performance and more in-depth literature reviews are needed to fully assess the value moving forward.

