

# THE OVA

THE ORGANIZED VOICES FOR ACTION



BIRTH JUSTICE PHILLY

## BUILDING BRIDGES TO BIRTH JUSTICE

In 2010, the City of Philadelphia created the nation's first non-state-based Maternal Mortality Review Committee (MMRC). The Philadelphia MMRC gathers multidisciplinary stakeholders from the city to better understand maternal mortality causes to provide policy and programmatic change recommendations.

Traditionally, the Philadelphia MMRC relied on individual stakeholders to implement recommendations that came from the review process. This methodology meant that stakeholders were not able to fully scale up interventions, and it decreased the likelihood of a population-level change. It also created silos which at times led to duplication of services. Recognizing that maternal mortality is a complex problem that spans many sectors, it is essential to start building bridges to truly alter the trajectory. The Organized Voices for Action (The OVA) is a coalition formed specifically to address this issue. The OVA is a multidisciplinary coalition formed to implement MMRC recommendations through collective action.

Through multi-sector partnerships, such as the OVA, Philadelphia continues to demonstrate its leadership & dedication to achieving better maternal outcomes.

## THE OVA FRAMEWORK



## KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

MADE POSSIBLE WITH COLLABORATIVE SUPPORT

- **CBO's lead by Women of Color:** Focus groups with Black women and women of color-led maternal health organizations to identify how organizations can invest in community-based organizations led by women of color.
- **Heart Safe Motherhood:** A postpartum hypertension surveillance program provided by all delivery hospitals
- **Early Warning Signs:** An educational series focused on awareness of early warning signs of severe maternal morbidity at common touchpoints.
- **OB+Cardiology Taskforce:** Develop city-wide recommendations for screening/identification for cardiovascular disease in pregnancy.
- **Implicit Bias Training:** Develop and disseminate implicit bias training at all Philadelphia birthing hospitals
- **Doula Programs:** Increasing access to doula services for prenatal, labor, and postpartum support
- **Policy & Advocacy:** Receiving commitment from Commonwealth leadership to submit for State Plan Amendment to extend Medicaid to a year postpartum
- **Managed Care Organizations (MCOs) Coordination:** Leveraging existing infrastructure to implement health information exchange between health care providers and managed care organizations to facilitate referrals for social services
- **Substance Use Care Services:** Increasing access to family planning for women and birthing persons with substance use disorder
- **IPV+MMR:** Funding secured to implement a coordinated response to IPV in obstetric settings and emergency rooms

*In Philadelphia, Black mothers and birthing people are 4x more likely to die of pregnancy-related causes.*

*Heart-related conditions and drug overdose contribute significantly to higher death rates.*

#OVAit