



June 8, 2020

Dear Colleagues,

PNQIN, MPQC, and NeoQIC stand in solidarity with those pursuing racial justice and equity across the country and across the world. We are saddened, angered, and frustrated by the murders of George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor and so many others. We ally with those protesting our system's inequities, racism and violence toward people of color. Striving for equity for all Massachusetts families has always been central to our mission. Our mission drafted in August 2016 states that “we aim to achieve measurable improvements in perinatal health outcomes while eliminating health disparities and improving health equity among Massachusetts mothers, newborns, and their families.” Since our first projects together, we have seen your unending commitment to provide the very best care possible to all families, regardless of color or background.

At PNQIN, we have hosted meetings and engaged our teams in trainings to identify and address bias such as through our Speak Up for Black Women program (explicit and implicit bias) and trauma informed care trainings. For PNQIN projects, we collect data and stratify by race and ethnicity to identify vulnerable populations. Our AIM Initiative focuses on improving maternal health outcomes and eliminating disparities by race and ethnicity. In May 2019, we launched our AIM Initiative and featured Equity as a central theme. Notably, the impact of racism leading to these aforementioned tragedies is not separate from the impact of racism leading to higher rates of SMM and death for Black moms. As individuals and as a collaborative, we can and must do more.

As a quality improvement collaborative, moving forward we can: assess process and outcome measures for all our projects across populations defined by race, ethnicity, language, and more; continue measuring disparities in our projects and work to address them; and insure our project leaders include families of color and diverse backgrounds. Beyond these basics, let’s think actively and creatively on how we can better use our collaboratives to make real and impactful change in addressing disparities that surround us. For these next steps, we will be looking to the families in our care, to our partners in the community and the state, and to all of you for input and guidance.

We are proud of the broad and diverse community that has come together to form PNQIN, MPQC, and NeoQIC. With your help, we will do better.

We will be in touch soon with updates on our various projects. In the meantime, or anytime, please do not hesitate to reach out to any of us with your suggestions on how we can move this work forward. As always, many thanks for all you do.

On behalf of the PNQIN, MPQC, and NeoQIC teams,

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