The Meadowlark Initiative is funded and supported through a partnership between the Montana Healthcare Foundation and the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services.

The Meadowlark Initiative brings together clinical and community teams to help you:

**PROVIDE** the right care at the right time for your patients and their families.

**IMPROVE** maternal and family outcomes.

**REDUCE** newborn drug exposure, neonatal abstinence syndrome, and perinatal complications.

**KEEP FAMILIES TOGETHER** and children out of foster care.

**INTEGRATING PRENATAL AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH TO MEASURABLY IMPROVE MATERNAL AND NEONATAL OUTCOMES**

Substance use disorders (SUDs) and mental health issues such as depression and anxiety affect thousands of pregnant women and their babies in Montana each year. These illnesses cross all demographics and often go unnoticed and untreated. Unfortunately, the problem is on the rise and contributes to poor outcomes for many Montana families.

Based on research and examples from other states, implementing a supportive, team-based approach to prenatal and postpartum care, along with better coordination between health care providers and social service agencies, offers a powerful way to improve these outcomes.

The Meadowlark Initiative provides funding and technical assistance to allow medical practices that provide prenatal and postpartum care to implement a coordinated, team-based approach that improves outcomes for women with SUDs and mental illness. The initiative will support at least one prenatal practice in each Montana community that delivers babies.

More information about the Meadowlark Initiative and how to join can be found at [mthcf.org/the-meadowlark-initiative](http://mthcf.org/the-meadowlark-initiative).

**Participating sites include:**

- Benefis Health System
- Bighorn Valley Health Center
- Blackfeet Tribal Health
- Bozeman Health
- Community Hospital of Anaconda
- Community Medical Center
- Helena OB/GYN & Associates
- Kalispell Regional Medical Center
- Livingston HealthCare
- Providence St. Patrick Hospital
- Sidney Health Center
- St. James Healthcare
- St. Luke Community Healthcare
- St. Peter's Health
- St. Vincent Healthcare

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Mothers and their families receive care through prenatal care and behavioral health providers and are connected with a care coordinator. These three make up the core of the patient’s Clinical Team.

The prenatal care provider screens all incoming prenatal patients for SUDs and mental illness. Patients who screen positive receive a same visit “warm hand-off” to the behavioral health provider.

The behavioral health provider assesses the patient and provides a brief counseling intervention, outpatient therapy, or an appropriate referral to higher-level care.

The care coordinator works with patients to identify social factors that may impede their treatment and continually facilitates the right care at the right time. This is done by utilizing a variety of resources to augment the Clinical Team and to establish a Community Team of social service providers, peer recovery coaches, and related caregivers. This group provides critically needed support for pregnant and postpartum women and their families.

The Clinical Team and Community Team work collaboratively to form a support system for the patient and their family.