



Update on Dignity in Pregnancy and Childbirth Act Continuing Education Requirement

Informational Meeting

March 2023

Land Acknowledgement

Every community owes its existence and vitality to generations from around the world who contributed their hopes, dreams, and energy to making the history that led to this moment. Some were brought here against their will, some were drawn to leave their distant homes in hope of a better life, and some have lived on this land for more generations than can be counted. Truth and acknowledgment are critical to building mutual respect and connection across all barriers of heritage and difference.

We begin this effort to acknowledge what has been buried by honoring the truth. We are standing on the ancestral lands of the Dakota people. We want to acknowledge the Dakota, the Ojibwe, the Ho Chunk, and the other nations of people who also called this place home. We pay respects to their elders past and present. Please take a moment to consider the treaties made by the Tribal nations that entitle non-Native people to live and work on traditional Native lands. Consider the many legacies of violence, displacement, migration, and settlement that bring us together here today. Please join us in uncovering such truths at any and all public events.*

**This is the acknowledgment given in the USDAC Honor Native Land Guide – edited to reflect this space by Shannon Geshick, MTAG, Executive Director Minnesota Indian Affairs Council*

Today's Agenda

1. Overview and Background on Dignity in Pregnancy and Childbirth Act.
2. Access a newly available course developed by CARHE tailored for Minnesota providers.
3. Submit alternative course curriculum.
4. Meet compliance of the statute.
5. Questions and Answers with our key partners.

Dignity in Pregnancy and Childbirth Act - 2021

- Legislation passed in 2021 – [Minnesota Statute 144.1461](#)
- Requires all hospitals with obstetric care and birth centers to develop/access continuing education on anti-racism and implicit bias for direct care employees and contractors who routinely care for pregnant/postpartum patients*
 - University of Minnesota’s Center for Anti-racism Research for Health Equity (CARHE) developing a high-quality course to specifically meet the requirements of the statute
 - All materials will be online, free, and available to upload into organization’s existing learning management systems

Check Website for Updates

The screenshot shows the Minnesota Department of Health website. At the top left is the logo with the letter 'm' and 'DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH'. To its right is a 'MENU' button. Further right is a search bar with the text 'I am looking for...' and a magnifying glass icon. Below the search bar is a breadcrumb trail: 'Home > Individual and Family Health > Women and Infants > Women's Health'. On the right side of the breadcrumb trail is a share icon. The main content area is divided into three sections. The first section is titled 'WOMEN'S HEALTH' and contains three links: 'Women's Health Home', 'Maternal Care Access', and 'Dignity in Pregnancy and Childbirth Act'. The second section is titled 'PROGRAMS OF INTEREST' and contains two links: 'Maternal & Child Health Section' and 'Minnesota Constitution and Abortion'. The third section is titled 'CONTACT INFO' and contains the text 'Maternal and Child Health Section', the phone number '651-201-3650', and the email address 'health.mch@state.mn.us'. The main article title is 'Dignity in Pregnancy and Childbirth Act'. The text below the title states: 'The [Dignity in Pregnancy and Childbirth Act](#) (MN § 144.1461), passed by the Minnesota State in 2021, addresses inequities in maternal health care. This legislation includes a requirement for hospitals with obstetric care and birth centers to develop or access a continuing education curriculum and must make available a continuing education course on anti-racism training and implicit bias.' Below this is another section titled 'Coming Soon: Dignity in Pregnancy and Childbirth Course'. The text below this title states: 'The Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) has partnered with the University of Minnesota Center for Anti-Racism (CARHE) to develop a course that meets legislative criteria. The first of three modules will be available in early January 2023, followed shortly by the final two modules.' Below this is a section titled 'Monitoring Implementation'. The text below this title states: 'The Commissioner of Health, in coordination with the Minnesota Hospital Association, will monitor the implementation of the statute and may inspect course records or require reports. MDH's Health Regulation Division will lead the monitoring component:'

- January 31, 2023:
 - Black birthing population module
- May 31, 2023:
 - Indigenous birthing population module
- June 30, 2023:
 - Release recommended updates and feedback on the modules

Center for Antiracism Research for Health Equity

The Problem

Compared to white counterparts:

- Black birthing people **die 2x as often** due to pregnancy complications
- Black babies **die 2x as often** before their 1st birthday



The Cause

Racism, not race, is a fundamental cause of racial birth health inequities.

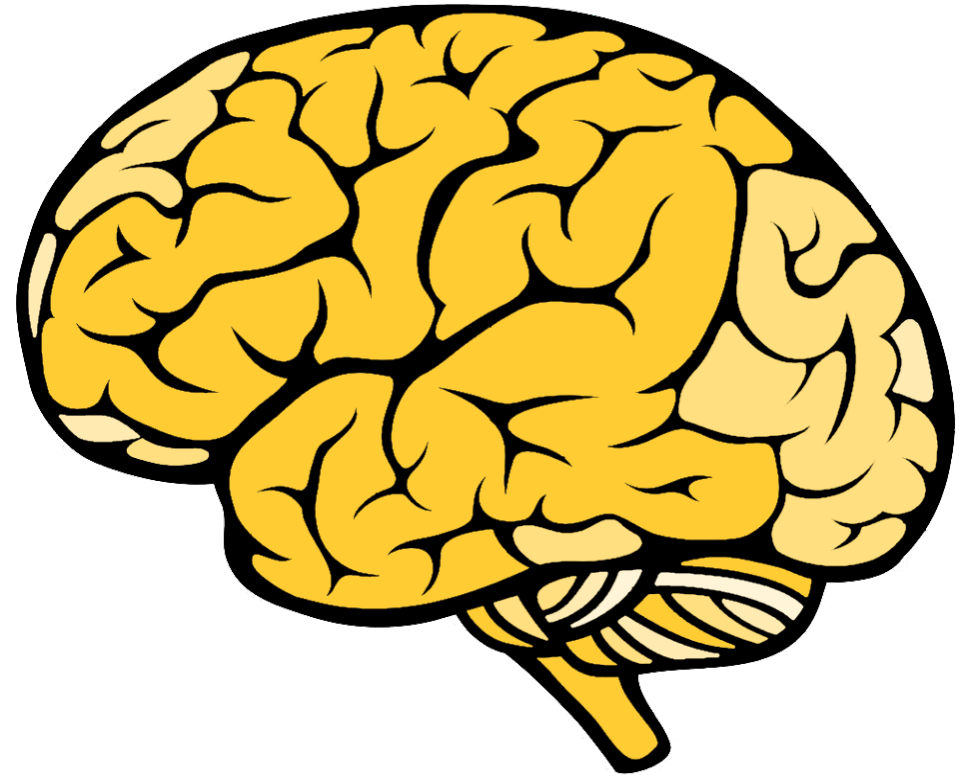
- Racism in economy & policy
- Racism in neighborhoods & communities
- *Racism in health systems*

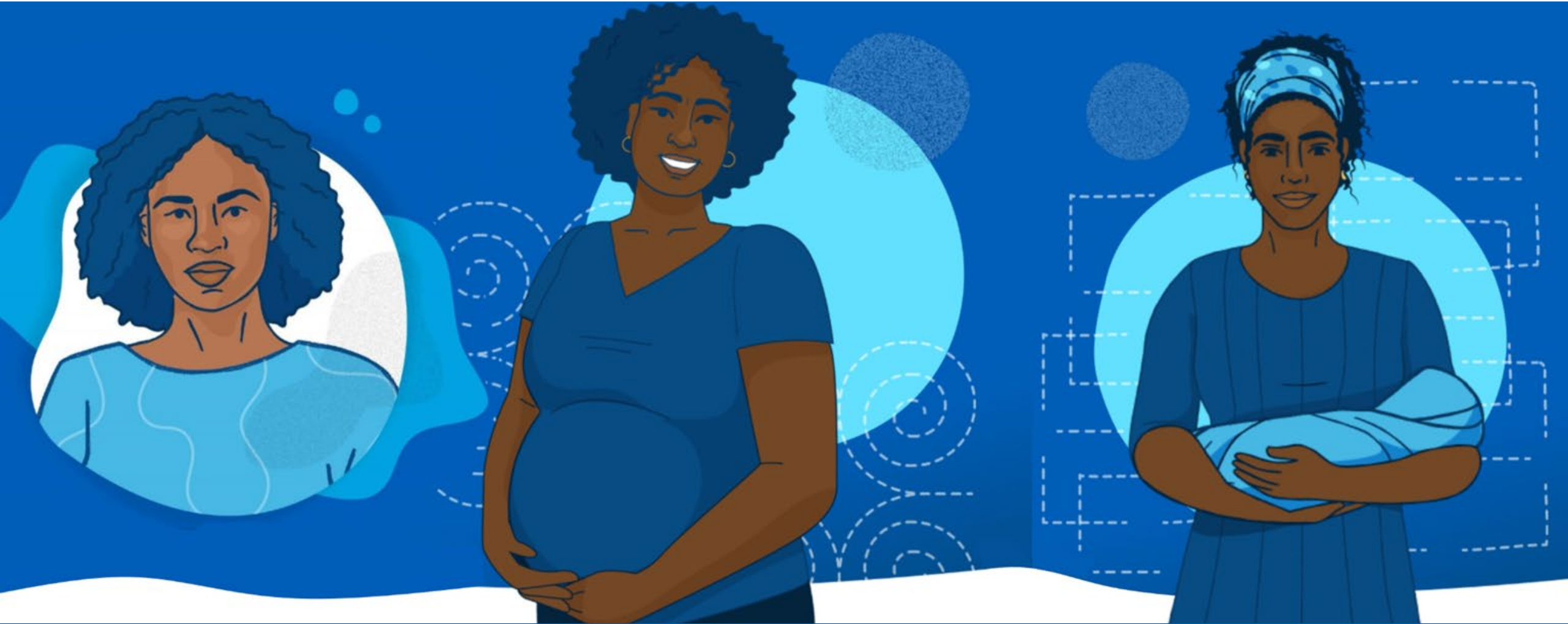


Implicit Bias in Health Care

Implicit racial biases are:

- *Unconscious & automatic*
- Linked to discrimination, declined care for Black patients
- Linked to inadequate treatment, worse health outcomes for Black patients





Available online NOW: Black Birthing Module

Short Link:

- z.umn.edu/MNDiPC

Full Link:

- [www.diversityscience.org/
proven-elearning/minnesota-
perinatal-care/](https://www.diversityscience.org/proven-elearning/minnesota-perinatal-care/)



Review of Existing Curricula

Review of Existing Curricula

- Highly recommend using the CARHE-developed curriculum that is tailored to the statute, the populations in Minnesota, and developed by world class experts in this field
 - Eligible hospitals and birth centers are not required to use this curriculum
- Organizations can submit their anti-racism training curriculum for review
 - If the curriculum is determined to meet all legislative criteria the curriculum can be used as an option for hospitals and birth centers to meet requirements of MN § 144.1461

Review of Existing Curricula - continued

- Submitted curriculum will be reviewed by a multi-disciplinary group of State staff
- Curriculum must meet all criteria to be posted by MDH and fulfill the legislative requirement
- Organizations will be notified in writing of the review result - Organizations can re-submit curriculum for review

Additional review details, criteria, and a link to submit materials can be found on the [Dignity in Pregnancy and Childbirth Act webpage](#)

Monitoring Implementation

- The Commissioner of Health, in coordination with MHA, will monitor the implementation of the statute and may inspect course records or require reports (from statute)
- MDH's Health Regulation Division will lead the monitoring component
- Hospitals and birth centers will be asked to attest to their compliance with this statute during the Hospital and Critical Access Hospital Licensing Renewal, beginning in October 2023
- MDH may review facility records as part of recertification survey or during a compliant investigation, if relevant
- Not seeking paperwork for each provider be submitted to MDH

Thank you!

MDH Maternal and Child Health Section

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[Dignity in Pregnancy and Childbirth Act: MN Dept of Health](#)

[Minnesota Dignity in Pregnancy and Childbirth Project](#)