

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-xxxx Pregnancy-Related Health Care

A RESOLUTION relating to the importance of access to high-quality pregnancy-related health care¹ and declaring a commitment to addressing root causes of critical access gaps for Medicaid (Apple Health) clients in Clark County, WA.

WHEREAS, early and regular prenatal care promotes healthy pregnancies and is associated with fewer pre-term births, higher birthweight infants, and fewer maternal and infant deaths; and

WHEREAS, inadequate prenatal care increases preventable risk for pregnancy complications and adverse birth outcomes for pregnant individuals and their babies; and

WHEREAS, early and regular prenatal care has an economic value through reduced healthcare costs, educational gains and improved productivity; and

WHEREAS, the Healthy People 2030 target for receiving early and adequate prenatal care is 80.5%; and

WHEREAS, state birth certificate data analyzed² by Clark County Public Health show 78.4% of Clark County births covered by private insurance met criteria for adequate prenatal care in 2024, 2.1% below the Healthy People 2030 benchmark; and

WHEREAS, state birth certificate data analyzed² by Clark County Public Health show 69.2% of Clark County births covered by Apple Health Insurance (i.e., Medicaid) received adequate prenatal care in 2024, 11.3% below the Healthy People 2030 benchmark; and

WHEREAS, there is a sustained and measurable difference in access to adequate prenatal care for pregnant individuals with Apple Health Insurance (i.e., Medicaid) compared to their privately insured peers; and

WHEREAS, inadequate access to care disproportionately impacts systemically disadvantaged racial and ethnic groups and people of limited economic means²; and

WHEREAS, every pregnant resident of Clark County should have the opportunity to access high-quality pregnancy-related health care; and

¹ Pregnancy-related health care is a term used throughout this resolution to describe the health care delivered during pregnancy, childbirth, and after pregnancy. This term includes prenatal/antenatal care, labor and delivery/intrapartum care, and postpartum care.

² Clark County Public Health publishes maternal and child health data, including prenatal care adequacy rates by race, ethnicity and payor type, on the Community data page, www.clark.wa.gov/public-health/community-data

WHEREAS, local health care delivery systems report increased costs, strained and diminished workforce capacity, and increased patient complexity; and

WHEREAS, health insurance/payer type should not drive differences in access to pregnancy-related care; and

WHEREAS, Medicaid pays for more than 40% of births in Clark County; and

WHEREAS, taxpayer dollars invested in Medicaid services must result in the provision of high-quality pregnancy-related care for Clark County residents; and

WHEREAS, Clark County Public Health values equity and the belief that communities with the greatest needs must be prioritized to improve health for all; and

WHEREAS, the mission statement of Clark County Public Health is to work alongside community partners to address the root causes of health so all people and all communities can thrive; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Health is responsible for preserving, promoting and improving public health; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Health has directed Clark County Public Health to develop a Medicaid Access to Prenatal Care workplan; and

WHEREAS, maternal/child/family health and access to health care are Foundational Public Health Service services in the state of Washington; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CLARK COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH, that the Board of Health and Clark County Public Health commits to advancing efforts to increase access to pregnancy-related care for Medicaid clients in Clark County, including but not limited to:

- Support efforts to formulate and implement payment reform initiatives that address and reduce deficiencies in pregnancy-related care delivery; and
- Support opportunities to strengthen the maternal healthcare workforce, including but not limited to recruitment and retention incentives; and
- Champion efforts to increase data quality and transparency of health care access and quality for the Medicaid managed care population; and
- Define a legislative agenda and engage in the legislative process around health care access; and
- Convene elected officials and relevant state agencies to collaboratively develop solutions; and

- Support and champion public-private partnerships and multi-sector models for innovative work; and
- Promote strategic partnerships between federal, state, and local governmental public health agencies, federally qualified health centers, healthcare systems, and community organizations; and
- Prioritize seeking new funding and allocating existing fund sources to support access to pregnancy-related care efforts.

Resolved this 24 day of September, 2025.

DRAFT