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# COALITION TO KEEP THE MCC OPEN

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We represent a group of diverse community stakeholders including doctors, nurses, midwives, experts in maternal and child health, reproductive justice advocates, and many Chatham residents who have joined together to demonstrate their support for access to needed care for moms and babies in our community.

Specifically, the coalition aims to prevent the closure of the Chatham Hospital Maternity Care Center and secure a public commitment from UNC Health and Chatham Hospital leadership to keep the MCC open.



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## WHO WE ARE



# COALITION TO KEEP THE MCC OPEN

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## **The Maternity Care Center (MCC) at UNC Chatham Hospital in Siler City is under threat of closing.**

*Take action to prevent the closure and add your name to our petition to the Keep the MCC Open.*

The racial and ethnic disparities in birth outcomes for moms and babies in North Carolina are tragic and alarming. And, now, with the overturning of Roe v. Wade by the Supreme Court, access to reproductive health care for women is more important than ever, especially in rural Chatham County.

In September 2020, the opening of a Level I Maternity Care Center (MCC) at the UNC Chatham Hospital brought hope to a community experiencing significant disparities in birth outcomes. The creation of the new unit was the result of a multi-agency, community-focused effort to bring maternity care services to women and families in Chatham County, which had been a **maternity care "desert"** for decades.

Data on patient experiences of feeling welcome and heard, as well as top clinical outcomes, indicate that the MCC is wanted and needed. **More than 75% of the people giving birth at Chatham Hospital are Black and Latina.**

**Now, this maternity care center is under threat of closure, less than three years after it opened.** Executives at the hospital and UNC Health cite unavoidable nurse staffing shortages due to the "Great Resignation" and patient volume as the primary threats to the MCC. Their "margin over mission" lens masks the real issue: **an unwillingness to honor the commitment they made to reduce disparities for moms and babies in our community.**

A **community task force** launched by UNC Health, made up of doctors and nurses, representatives of community organizations, public health and health equity specialists met on a volunteer basis to identify potential solutions. At a meeting scheduled to discuss those proposed solutions, **UNC Health leadership failed to show up.**

We are **The Coalition to #KeeptheMCCOpen**, a coalition of stakeholders, advocates and community members asking that UNC Health implement forward-thinking solutions and resources to give the MCC a fighting chance. We believe **UNC Chatham Hospital MCC does not need to close, it is a choice.**

**We call on UNC leadership to honor the values proposition they made to the community and ask that they make a public commitment to invest in the success of the UNC Chatham Hospital MCC for a minimum of three more years.**

Please join us in standing up for access to needed care for moms and babies in our community. **Click here to add your name to our petition to Keep the MCC Open.**

Thank you,

The Coalition to Keep the MCC Open



**WE CALL ON UNC LEADERSHIP TO HONOR THE VALUES PROPOSITION THEY MADE TO THE COMMUNITY AND PUBLICLY COMMIT TO INVESTING IN THE SUCCESS OF THE UNC CHATHAM HOSPITAL MCC FOR A MINIMUM OF THREE MORE YEARS.**

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*Over 400 signatures have been added to the petition*

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DECEMBER 2022



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## Access matters

Before the MCC reopened in 2020, Chatham County ranked in the bottom quarter of N.C. counties for average distance between home and a hospital with childbirth services.

Traveling long distances to deliver contributes to increased infant mortality and pregnancy complications.

## Disparities in birth outcomes in Chatham are alarming

2016-2020 Infant mortality rate for black babies was 2.66x higher than white babies and the rate for Hispanic/Latino babies was 1.54x higher.

## Chatham Hospital MCC: A Values-Based Response to these trends

Chatham Hospital MCC was envisioned as a model for rural maternity care amidst a troubling trend of closures.

Since it opened, nearly 80% of the women who delivered at the UNC Chatham Hospital MCC were women of color.

A decision to close the Maternity Care Center after less than 3 years of operation will have widespread impacts on the community.

The UNC Chatham Hospital Maternity Care Center does not need to close, it is a choice.

**WHY WE ARE  
SPEAKING UP**



# WHY WE ARE TALKING TO YOU

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## Access to Care County Health Impact Priority

Access to Comprehensive Health Services identified as a health impact priority in 2018 and 2021

## Chatham Plan Prioritizes Health

Foster a healthy community 1 of 10 goals in Chatham County  
Comprehensive Land Use Plan

Among the recommendations: Build a comprehensive and integrated healthcare system that ensures adequate access for all residents.

## Chatham Plan Prioritizes Health

More than \$600,000 in grant funding to support collaborative effort to reduce birth inequities in Chatham County through the pursuit of a comprehensive, coordinated, person-centered perinatal care system





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## Chatham Hospital MCC Open

Fully Staffed, hope to be open 24/7 beginning January 2023.



## UNC Health Reviewing Taskforce Recommendations

3-5 strategies for sustaining the MCC to be pursued starting in January. Taskforce will be meet again in 6 months.

No public commitment of \$s or time beyond 6 months.



## Chatham County BOH Letter to UNC Health Leadership

BOH met Thursday 12/15 and voted to send letter to UNC Health Leadership to demonstrate their support for the MCC.



**WHAT'S  
HAPPENING  
NOW**

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# WHAT'S NEXT

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## Keep the MCC Coalition Campaign

Continue to grow and strengthen coalition.

Pursue and advocate for collaborative strategies for ensuring access to care for moms and babies.

## BOC Actions

Letter to UNC Health Leadership or Resolution in support of the MCC.

Link UNC Health's privileged access to future growth in Chatham to their commitment to providing equitable access to care throughout the county

