

Santa Barbara Women's Health Coalition

2022 Inaugural Meeting

Below is a summary of the group's discussion in response to the following questions:

“Why is women’s health important to our community?”

“Why does this warrant focused conversation and initiative?”



- There are significant challenges accessing women’s health care in Santa Barbara due to lack of providers, limited availability, fragmented care, and poor insurance coverage.
- These challenges impact patients and providers in different ways. We need to provide a space for constructive dialogue so that women in both of these arenas feel heard, seen, supported, and safe.
- We want women-centered care that is focused on our unique needs throughout all phases of life, not just ob-gyn and breast care.
- Access to high-quality physical and mental healthcare is 10x harder for our vulnerable and underserved populations, including women of color, LGBTQ+, women with disabilities, low income, new mothers, women with limited English proficiency, and countless others. We need strategies to improve the care for at-risk populations.
- Women need better representation in local healthcare leadership so that we are part of setting the vision for the future.
- Reproductive choices are at risk.
- We envision an integrated center for multi-speciality women’s health care. Fundraising will be a key factor not only in creating the center, but in expanding our provider base in these areas.
- Improving women’s care will improve the health of our community:
 - Women are the foundational caregivers in society, driving care and decisions for children, parents, partners, and countless others.
 - Women assume the vast majority of work of raising the children of our community, and the care they receive impacts the health of the entire family.