

Delaware



National CLAS Standards Planning, Policies, and Collaboration

In its [2005 Infant Mortality Task Force \(IMTF\) Report](#),¹ the Healthy Mother and Infant Consortium of the Delaware Department of Health and Social Services, Division of Public Health recommended implementation of the National CLAS Standards as a necessary step to ensure equal access to care and improved patient participation in clinical decision-making. The Delaware Office of Minority Health collaborated with the Healthy Mother and Infant Consortium to develop a plan for implementation of the National CLAS Standards in Delaware. The consortium sought input from consumers and health care practitioners (nurses, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, and physicians) throughout the state to inform development of the plan and priority steps for implementation. In June 2010, the Healthy Mother and Infant Consortium presented the key findings in the [Delaware Standards for Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services in Health Care \(CLAS\) Initiative Final Report](#).² The consortium recommended four core components for the CLAS implementation plan: dissemination of the National CLAS Standards to key health services stake-

holders; provider education on culturally and linguistically appropriate care; development and sharing of CLAS resources; and, recognition of community-based CLAS implementation initiatives.

National CLAS Standards Training and Technical Assistance

The Delaware Division of Public Health convened an internal committee to design a culturally competent public education campaign for health care providers in Delaware. In 2009-2010, the Healthy Mother and Infant Consortium held five cultural competency trainings as well as a series of focus groups with providers to determine the best way to implement the National CLAS Standards.³

National CLAS Standards Dissemination

The Delaware Office of Minority Health disseminates information about the National CLAS Standards on the [Bureau of Health Equity](#)⁴ website. The site provides an overview of the National CLAS Standards and their connection to the elimination of health inequities. Links are provided to the federal Think Cultural Health website for more information.

Endnotes

- 1 Delaware Healthy Mother and Infant Consortium. (2005, May). *Reducing Infant Mortality in Delaware—Task Force Report*. Retrieved December 9, 2014, from Delaware Department of Health and Social Services: <http://dhss.delaware.gov/dhss/dph/files/infantmortalityreport.pdf>.
- 2 Delaware Healthy Mothers and Infants Consortium. (2010, June). *Delaware Standards for Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services in Health Care (CLAS) Initiative Final Report*. Retrieved December 9, 2014, from Delaware Department of Health and Social Services: <http://dhss.delaware.gov/dhss/dph/chca/files/declasinativefinal.pdf>.
- 3 Delaware Healthy Mother and Infant Consortium. (2010, March). *Annual Progress Report*. Retrieved December 9, 2014, from Delaware Department of Health and Social Services: <http://dhss.delaware.gov/dhss/dph/chca/files/dhmicfy2009annualreport.pdf>.
- 4 Delaware Department of Health and Social Services, Division of Public Health. (n.d.). *Bureau of Health Equity*. Retrieved December 9, 2014, from Delaware Department of Health and Social Services, Division of Public Health: <http://dhss.delaware.gov/dhss/dph/mh/healthequity.html>.