



## Addressing Women's Health through Education

With support from a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) grant, the National Association of Community Health Centers (NACHC) and the Association of Asian Pacific Community Health Organization (AAPCHO) launched “Building Cross-Sector Partnerships to Address SDOH: Design Sprints.” Using human-centered design concepts, NACHC and AAPCHO facilitated four design sprint cohorts in 2021 with community health centers and their cross-sector partners to tackle social drivers of health challenges in their communities and advance health equity. Each cohort focused on one aspect of the RWJF Theory of Change framework (purpose, data, governance, finance) to strengthen both emerging and established partnerships, and foster alignment between sectors.

### About Health Center **communityclinic**

Community Clinic is a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) serving Benton and Washington Counties in Northwest Arkansas. Through the years, Community Clinic has grown to become Northwest Arkansas’ largest safety-net health care provider, serving more than 41,000 patients in 2020. Community Clinic serves high minority populations including Hispanic, Latinx, and Marshallese populations. About 52% of their patient population is best served in a language other than English.

### About Partner Organization



The Marshallese Educational Initiative (MEI) is a not-for-profit organization located in Springdale, Arkansas, where the highest concentration of Marshallese in the continental United States reside. MEI’s mission is to promote cultural, intellectual, and historical awareness of the Marshallese people and to facilitate intercultural dialogue to foster positive social change.

### Challenge Overview

Community Clinic and MEI identified the need for culturally competent healthcare for Marshallese women specifically about whole health and contraceptive education. Due to culture differences, Community Clinic and MEI noticed that in the Marshallese culture, women often forget about their own health as they are responsible for taking care of others. Furthermore, through community outreach, the partnership learned that women in the Marshallese community often feel they do not have a voice and are not sure who they can speak to when it comes to their health.

### Design Sprint Highlights

Community Clinic and MEI hosted two focus groups with Marshallese women during the Design Sprint with the goal of listening to the participants regarding their health and concerns. As a result of the focus groups:

- Community Clinic added a Marshallese language option to the phone tree.
- Information on Medicaid options and how to enroll with the assistant of a patient navigator was provided.

Through the design sprint, Community Clinic and MEI learned to have open communication which allowed each organization to learn more about the services that one another can offer to the community.

### Moving Forward

Community Clinic and MEI plans to have regular scheduled monthly meetings. The meetings will continue to focus on educating the Marshallese community on whole-person health and services that are available. The two organizations plan to start with:

- Hosting monthly Marshallese Women’s Health Night
- Hosting a Back-to-School Marshallese Kids challenge – Moms can learn how to encourage healthy lifestyles with their children as they go back to school.
- Educating the community about vaccination