



National **MCH** Workforce  
Development Center  
Advancing Health Transformation

### **The Five Rs**

Preparation is underway for a listening session in the western region of the state. A diverse group of stakeholders have confirmed participation in the session. The stakeholders include women of all ages, parents, grandparents, caregivers, medical providers, and community-based service providers. The team is excited to hear from the stakeholders and capture their perspective on the strengths/challenges/needs of the maternal and child health system. The needs assessment team recently attended a training and were introduced to a new tool, the Five Rs, and will use this tool to collect information during the listening session.

### **Using the Tool**

Prior to the listening session the needs assessment team:

- Creates a problem statement to use during the 5Rs discussion. The statement is: *“How well does the maternal and child health system support women and children across our state?”*
- Sends out the 5Rs handout, including the problem statement, and ask participants to review prior to the session. (Note: It is not necessary for participants to complete the form prior to the session. However, it is sent as a courtesy for those who like to process information before a meeting.)
- Decides how to facilitate the 5Rs discussion. For this session they plan to use small groups, post-it notes, and flip charts.
- Gathers materials (e.g. flip charts, post-its, sharpies, etc.) and creates a set of five flip charts for each small group. Each flip chart is labeled with a separate “R”.

The day of the listening session, the needs assessment team:

- Opens the listening session with welcome/introductions/icebreaker.
- Shows the [overview video](#) for the 5 R’s and answers questions after the video.
- Breaks participants into small groups and facilitates brainstorming sessions within each group.
- Assembles small groups back together to briefly report out on key takeaways.

### **Using the Information to Inform NEXT STEPS in the Needs Assessment Process**

To ensure the information is used to inform the needs assessment process, the team spends time identifying next steps. The following next steps are identified:

- Summarize the flip charts from the small groups (create a separate summary for each “R”).
- Share the summary with listening session participants for additional comments/feedback.
- Review the summary to:
  - Identify key themes
  - Identify key stakeholders (those currently involved and those needed)

- Identify gaps in understanding with regards to the current maternal child health system
- Identify next steps to address the gaps in knowledge
- Debrief the process and identify ways to adapt the session for upcoming meetings.