



Homeward Bound Initiative: NICU Discharge Preparedness and Transition to Home

Mid-Initiative Meeting
September 11, 2024



FPQC's Vision and Values

“All of Florida’s mothers, infants & families will have the best health outcomes possible through receiving respectful, high quality, and evidence-based perinatal care.”



- Data-Driven
- Population-Based
- Evidence-Based
- Respect-Centered
- Value-Added

Homeward Bound Leadership Team

Provider
Leads



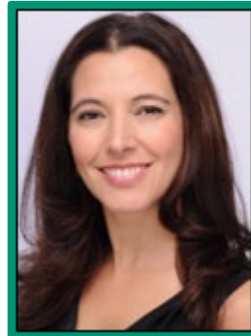
Vargabi Ghei

Nurse
Lead



Sue Bowles

Family
Lead



Lelis Vernon

FPQC
Leads



Lori Reeves

QI Team



Nicole Pelligrino

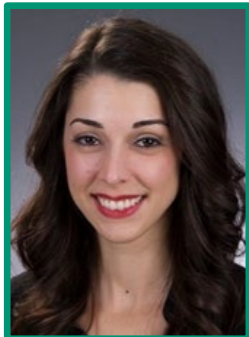
Data
Team



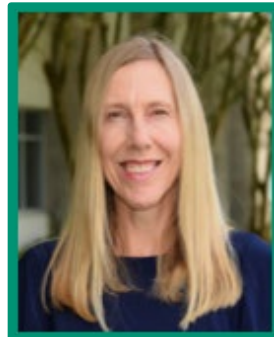
Estefania Rubio



Shelby
Davenport



Patoula
Panagos



Linda Detman



Estefanny Reyes
Martinez



Sara Stubben



Alexa
Mutchler

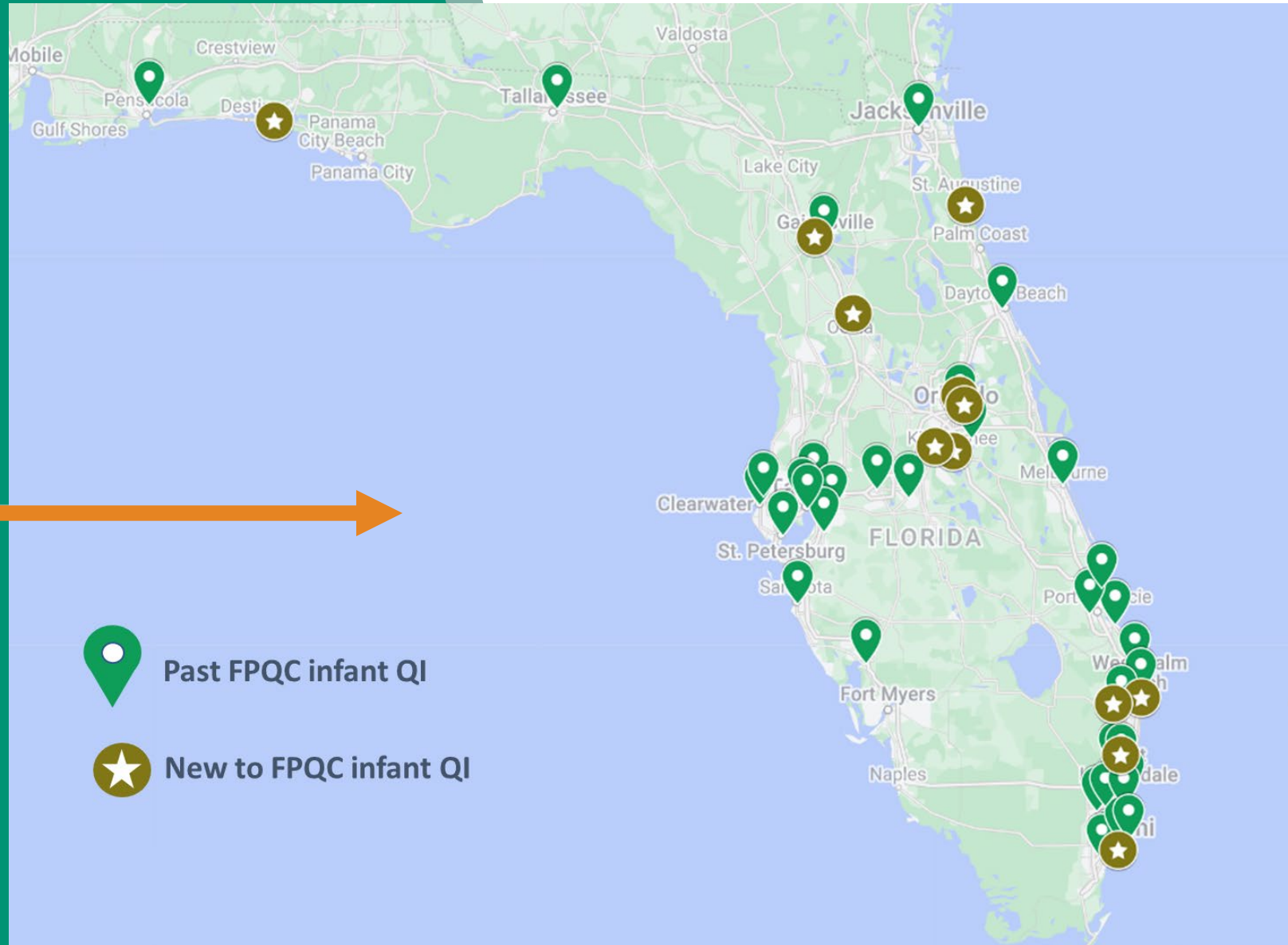
Today's Objectives

- Celebrate progress of Homeward Bound Initiative
- Brainstorm challenges, opportunities, and solutions in our Round Robin activity
- Contemplate the family perspective – how do we compassionately engage them in their baby's care?
- Learn to recognize signs and symptoms of trauma in patients, families, and staff teams
- Have Fun!

Homeward Bound Participating Hospitals

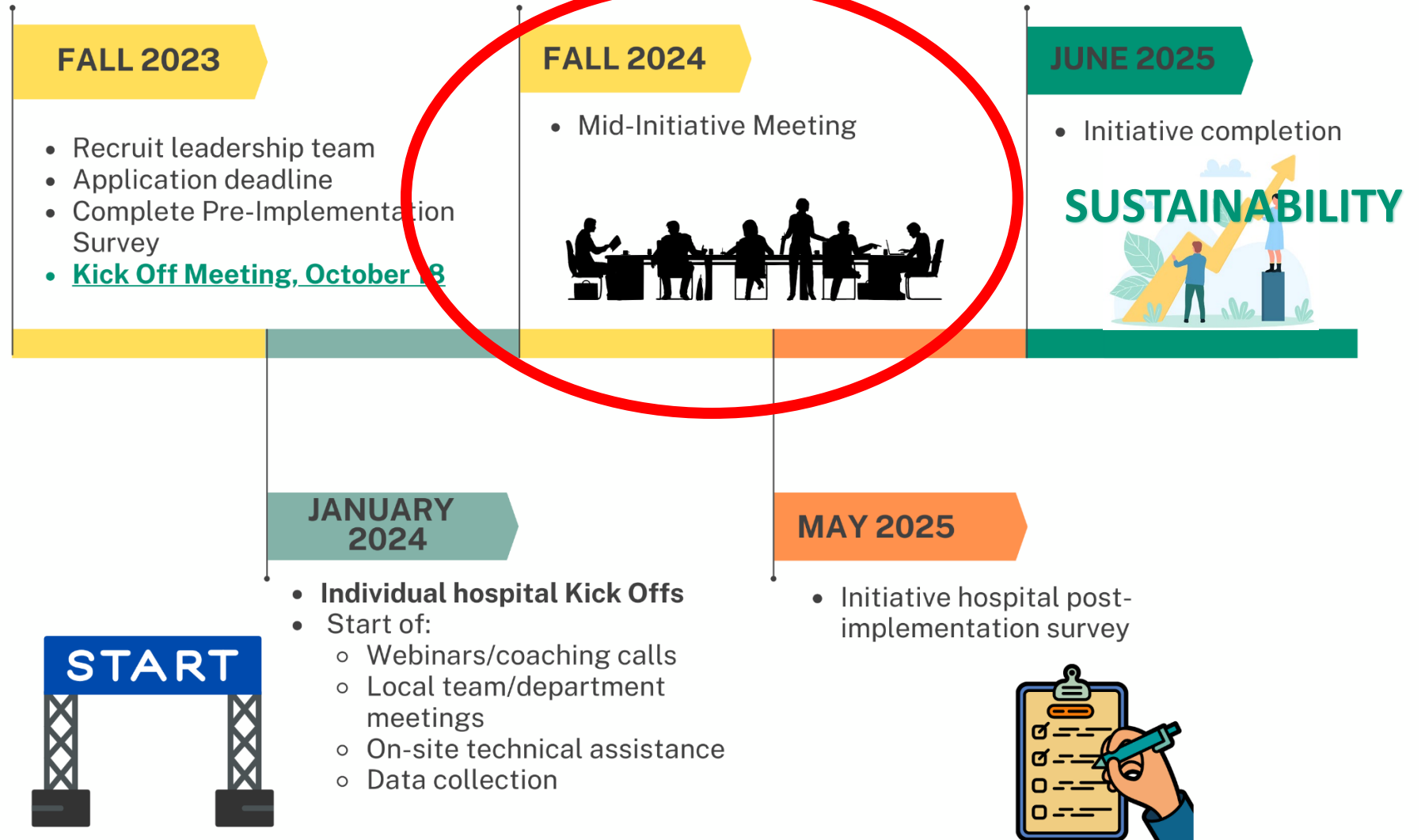
49 Florida NICUs

68% FL NICUs (LII+)





Initiative Timeline



NICU Discharge Preparedness & Transition to Home

Journal of Perinatology

www.nature.com/jp

CONSENSUS STATEMENT OPEN

Check for updates

NICU discharge preparation and transition planning: guidelines and recommendations

Vincent C. Smith¹, Kristin Love² and Erika Goyer³

© The Author(s) 2022, corrected publication 2022

In this section, we present Interdisciplinary Guidelines and Recommendations for Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) Discharge Preparation and Transition Planning. The foundation for these guidelines and recommendations is based on existing literature, practice, available policy statements, and expert opinions. These guidelines and recommendations are divided into the following sections: Basic Information, Anticipatory Guidance, Family and Home Needs Assessment, Transfer and Coordination of Care, and Other Important Considerations. Each section includes brief introductory comments, followed by the text of the guidelines and recommendations in table format. After each table, there may be further details or descriptions that support a guideline or recommendation. Our goal was to create recommendations that are both general and adaptable while also being specific and actionable. Each NICU's implementation of this guidance will be dependent on the unique makeup and skills of their team, as well as the availability of local programs and resources. The recommendations based only on expert opinion could be topics for future research.

Journal of Perinatology (2022) 42:7–21; <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41372-022-01313-9>

ABOUT THE GUIDELINES

The foundation for these recommendations is based on existing literature, practice, and available policy statements. Given the range of topics we cover, there are some situations where there is no published literature specific to a recommendation. In some situations, we relied on the lived experiences of families and providers to inform our recommendations. While there may not be supporting references for some of these recommendations, all of the recommendations are based on expert opinion and consensus and the readers are requested to note this issue while adapting them into their practices, if they choose to. The recommendations based only on expert opinion could be topics for future research. Our guidelines are divided into the following sections:

- Basic Information
- Anticipatory Guidance
- Family and Home Needs Assessment
- Transfer and Coordination of Care
- Other Important Considerations

Each section includes brief introductory comments, followed by the text of the guidelines and recommendations in table format. After each table, there may be further details or descriptions that support a guideline or recommendation.

USING THE GUIDELINES

It is impossible to create a comprehensive discharge preparation and transition planning program that will work for every family in every

NICU setting. Rather, what we propose are guidelines and recommendations that focus on content and process. We strive to create recommendations that are both general and adaptable while also being specific and actionable. Each NICU's implementation of this guidance will be dependent on the unique makeup and skills of their team, as well as the availability of local programs and resources.

BASIC INFORMATION

Discharge planning is the process of working with a family to help them successfully transition from the NICU to home. To this end, each family will need to participate in a comprehensive discharge planning program that has been tailored to their and their infant's specific needs. The first section is basic information and is meant to emphasize content that every family will need, without taking into account each family/infant's specific needs.

In preparing for discharge, your team will have to set clear criteria for what each family and infant need to accomplish to be ready to transition from the NICU to home. The NICU team should work with the family and confirm that the family understands the NICU discharge planning process. It is important that families understand that it is difficult to plan for a specific discharge date because discharge readiness is often conditional (e.g., the infants has no further spells, is able to gain weight, pass a car seat test, etc.) The fluid and uncertain nature of discharge readiness can be a source of frustration for families. To help minimize frustration and avoid misunderstandings, it is important to have consistent messaging, emphasizing that there can be wide variations in when an infant is discharged based on clinical indications and medical opinions.

¹Boston Medical Center, Boston, MA, USA. ²National Perinatal Association, Lonedell, MO, USA. ³National Perinatal Association, Austin, TX, USA. [✉]email: vincent.smith@bmc.org; kllove@nationalperinatal.org

Published online: 14 February 2022

SPRINGER NATURE

- Comprehensive discharge preparation ensures an optimized discharge and transition of the NICU baby to home.
- Comprehensive, consistent, and early discharge preparation can lead to more effective and efficient NICU discharge and transition to home as well as improve caregiver and family satisfaction.
- Families, patients, and staff benefit when an inclusive, multidisciplinary, family-centered discharge preparation program is used to prepare for discharge and transition from the NICU.



With Gratitude for our Funder:

WeCare: For NICU Families is made possible due to a generous donation from the **Jennie K. Scaife Charitable Foundation**

WeCare Objectives

1. To provide NICU families with the resources necessary to be with their baby in the NICU, aiming for at least **two days per week until discharge**
2. To assist hospitals in establishing a mechanism for providing such services on an ongoing basis

FUNDS ARE STILL AVAILABLE!

How to Apply

- For questions, email us at fpqc@usf.edu. Apply at link below.
- Office hours: September 26 at 2 pm -- watch for the eblast, coming soon!

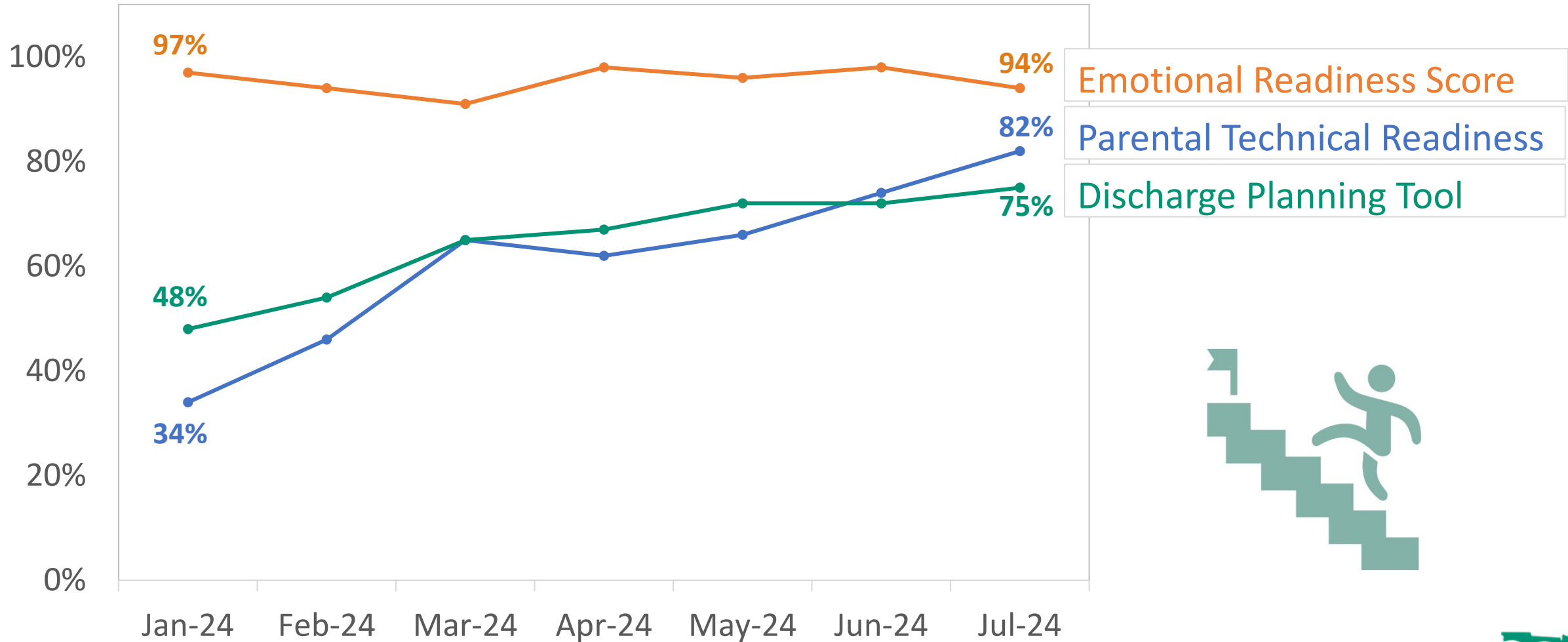


Already Enrolled in WeCare?

- Funding period is extended to June 30, 2025
- Talking to us about expanding your funding allocation – more resources for more families!



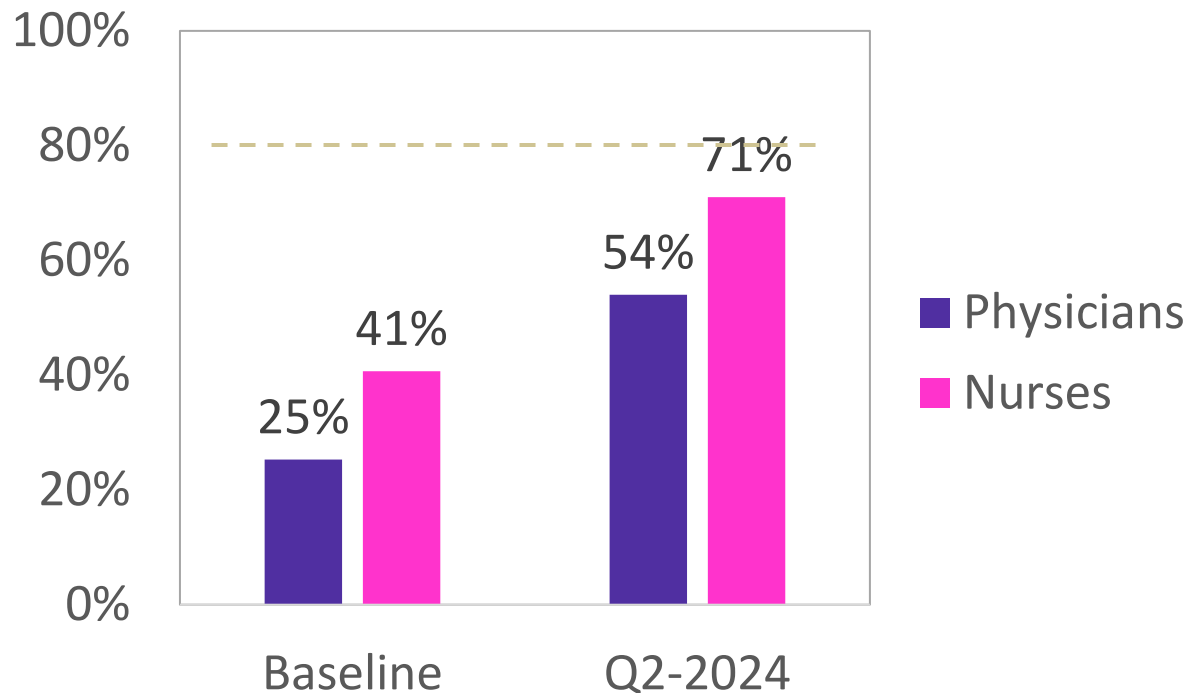
Homeward Bound Aims



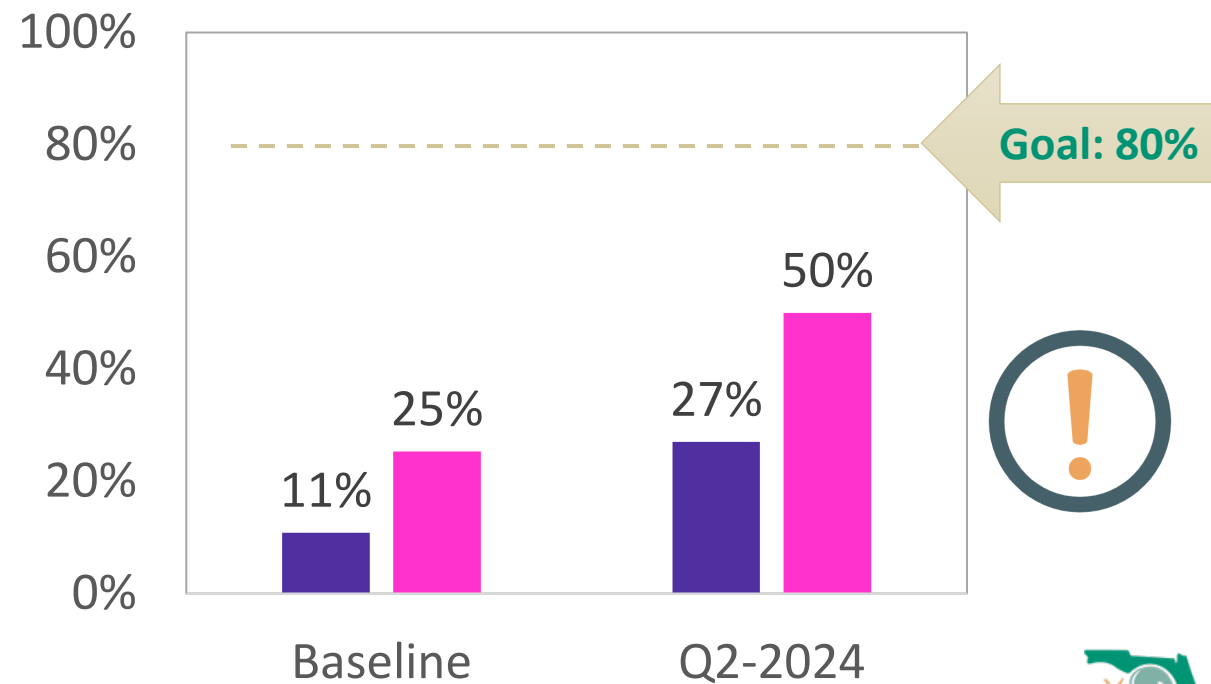
Physician and Nurse Training

Train and commit to dignity and respect in all family interactions

Process to train parents on infant skills needed for transition to home



Respectful Care training and commitment to RC practices



MARY E. COUGHLIN

*Online
Resources Available
(See Inside Front Cover)*

TRAUMA-INFORMED CARE IN THE NICU



QUESTIONS?

