

STATEMENT ON THE IMPORTANCE OF RAISING AWARENESS DURING MATERNAL MENTAL HEALTH MONTH BY NEW MORNING PRESIDENT & CEO BONNIE KAPP

Columbia, S.C. (May 1, 2025) – Bonnie Kapp, President & CEO of [New Morning](#), a South Carolina nonprofit organization working to expand access to affordable contraceptive and family planning services, issued the following statement in recognition of [Maternal Mental Health Month](#), commemorated in May each year. South Carolina is struggling to improve maternal health across the state and received an “F” in maternal health in 2024 by [March of Dimes](#).

Maternal Health Awareness Statement by New Morning President and CEO Bonnie Kapp:

At New Morning, we provide family planning services, reproductive health information and access to affordable contraception to ensure that women can plan for children on their terms. This work not only offers peace of mind to those preparing to start a family, but also contributes to healthier pregnancies and better postpartum outcomes. Making the decision to become pregnant and have children is incredibly personal and unique to each mother. As we recognize Maternal Mental Health Month, it is critical for women’s overall reproductive health that they have access to the resources they need to do preconception planning whenever possible and have healthy pregnancies, should they choose to have children.

As we commemorate this Maternal Mental Health Month, let us all acknowledge that more needs to be done to address persistent disparities in maternal healthcare in South Carolina and across this country. In South Carolina, the pregnancy-related mortality rate was 47.2 deaths per 100,000 live births in 2021. Mental health conditions were among the leading causes of pregnancy-related deaths from 2018 to 2021, according to the [South Carolina Maternal Morbidity and Mortality Review Committee](#).

As we shine a light on this critical issue, we urge government agencies, healthcare providers and community organizations to work together with New Morning’s support to provide the resources women need to seek maternal mental health treatment.

Together, let’s improve maternal health outcomes across South Carolina.