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Summer 2023

### Educational Initiative to Support Nursing Staff & Families Through DCF Removal of a Newborn

Laura Spice RNC

*Baystate Health*, [laura.spice@baystatehealth.org](mailto:laura.spice@baystatehealth.org)

Emily Lajeunesse LICSW

*Baystate Health*, [emily.lajeunesse@baystatehealth.org](mailto:emily.lajeunesse@baystatehealth.org)

Megan Millen MD

*Baystate Health*, [megan.miller@baystatehealth.org](mailto:megan.miller@baystatehealth.org)

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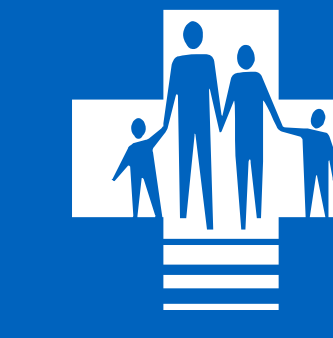
Spice, Laura RNC; Lajeunesse, Emily LICSW; and Millen, Megan MD, "Educational Initiative to Support Nursing Staff & Families Through DCF Removal of a Newborn" (2023). *Research and Education Celebration 2023*. 29.

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# Educational Initiative to Support Nursing Staff & Families Through DCF Removal of a Newborn

Laura Spice, MSN, RNC-OB, Emily Lajeunesse, LICSW, Megan Miller, MD, and the members of the MAP Team



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## Problem

- In the LDRP (Labor, Delivery, Recovery and Postpartum) and Wesson 2 units at Baystate Medical Center, approximately 250-300 51As are filed annually.
- In 2021, an average of four newborns per month were taken into custody of the Department of Children and Families directly from these units.
- Prior to the educational interventions, no formal plan or nursing guideline was in place for supporting parents who lost custody of their newborn after delivery.
- Some supports were offered by the postpartum nurse, social workers, or the pediatrician, but lacked structure and a focus on an interdisciplinary collaboration.
- This caused the potential for increased trauma for parents, increased risk for safety concerns/escalation, and decreased work satisfaction for nursing staff.

## Objective

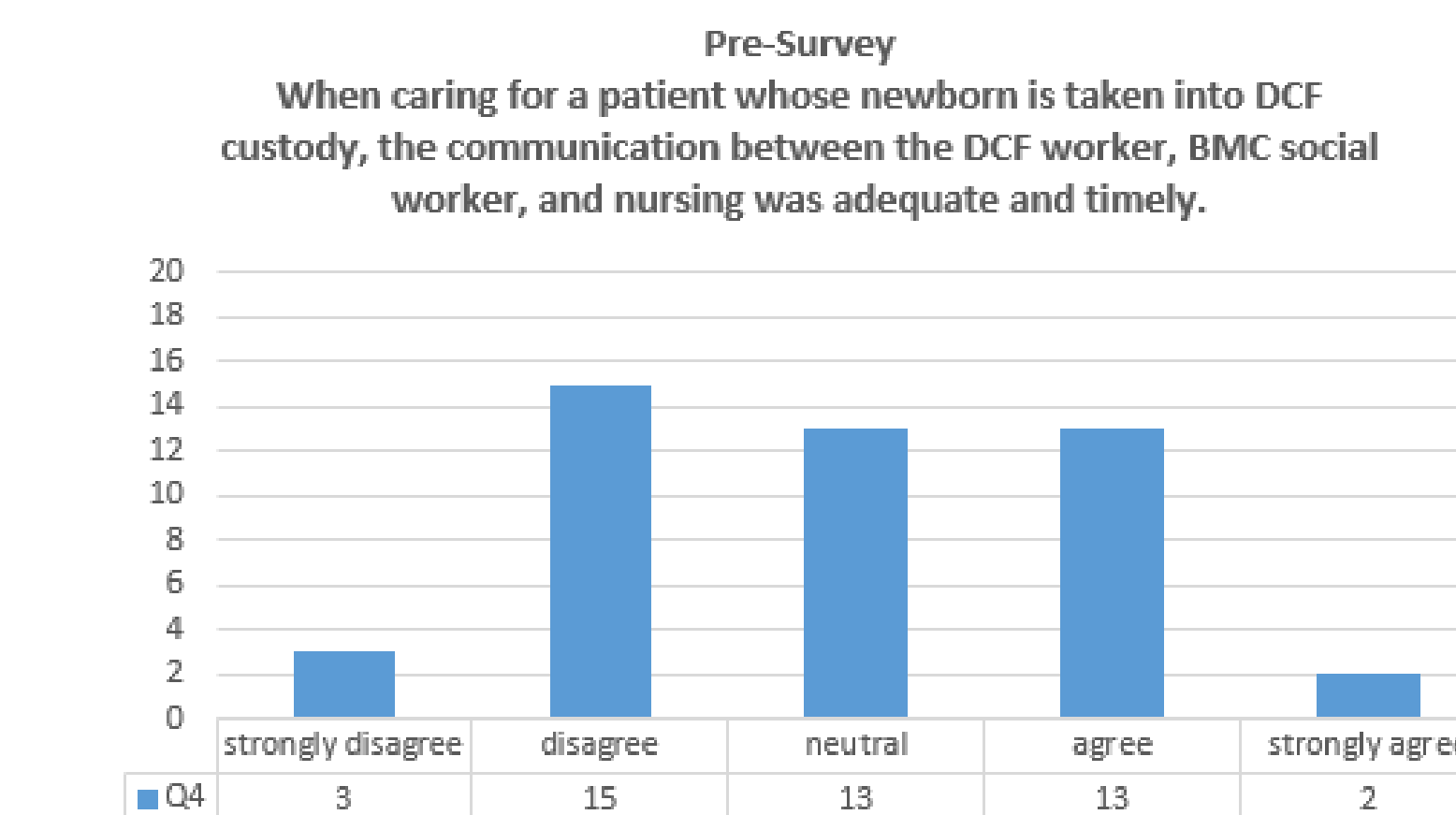
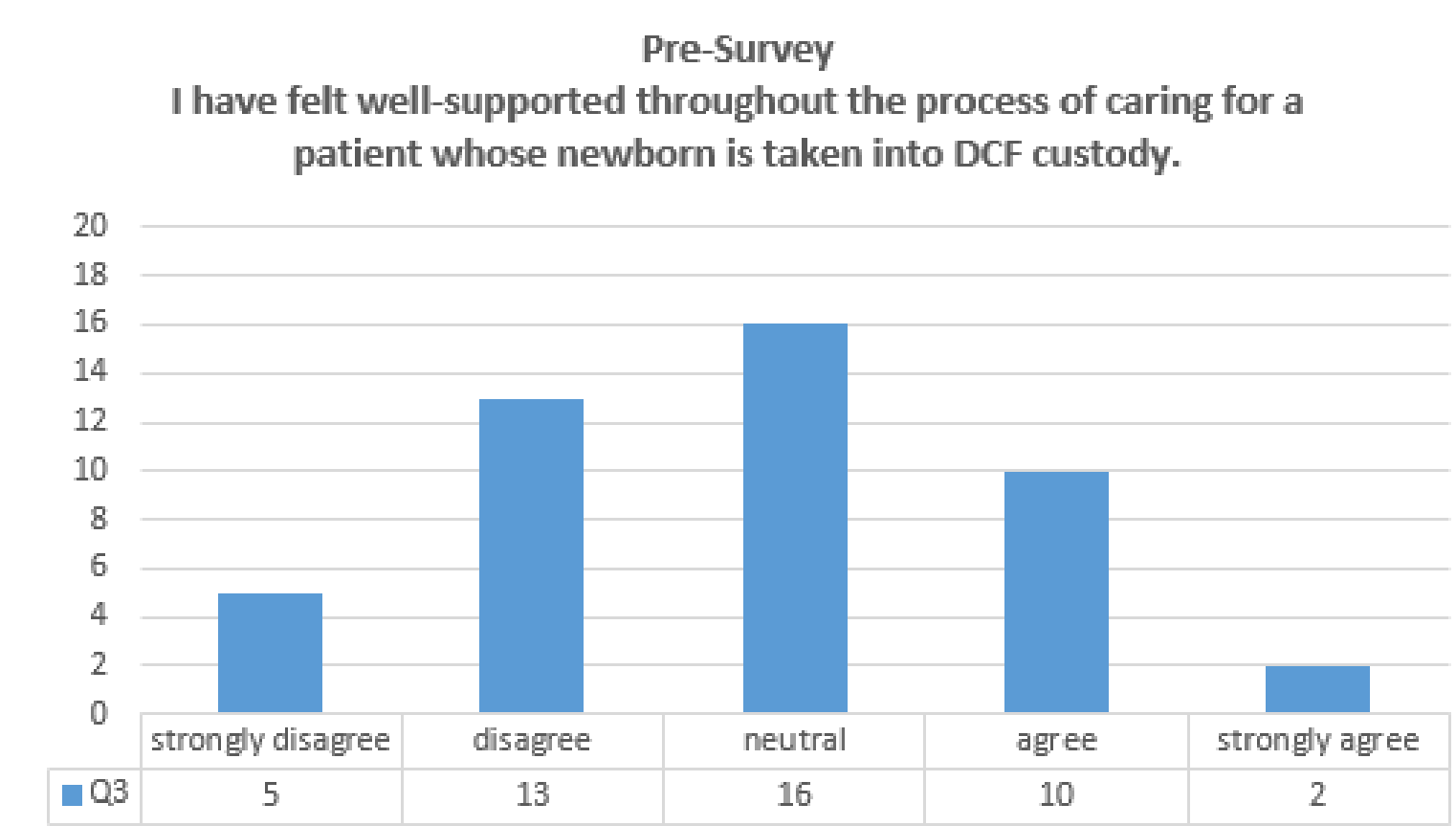
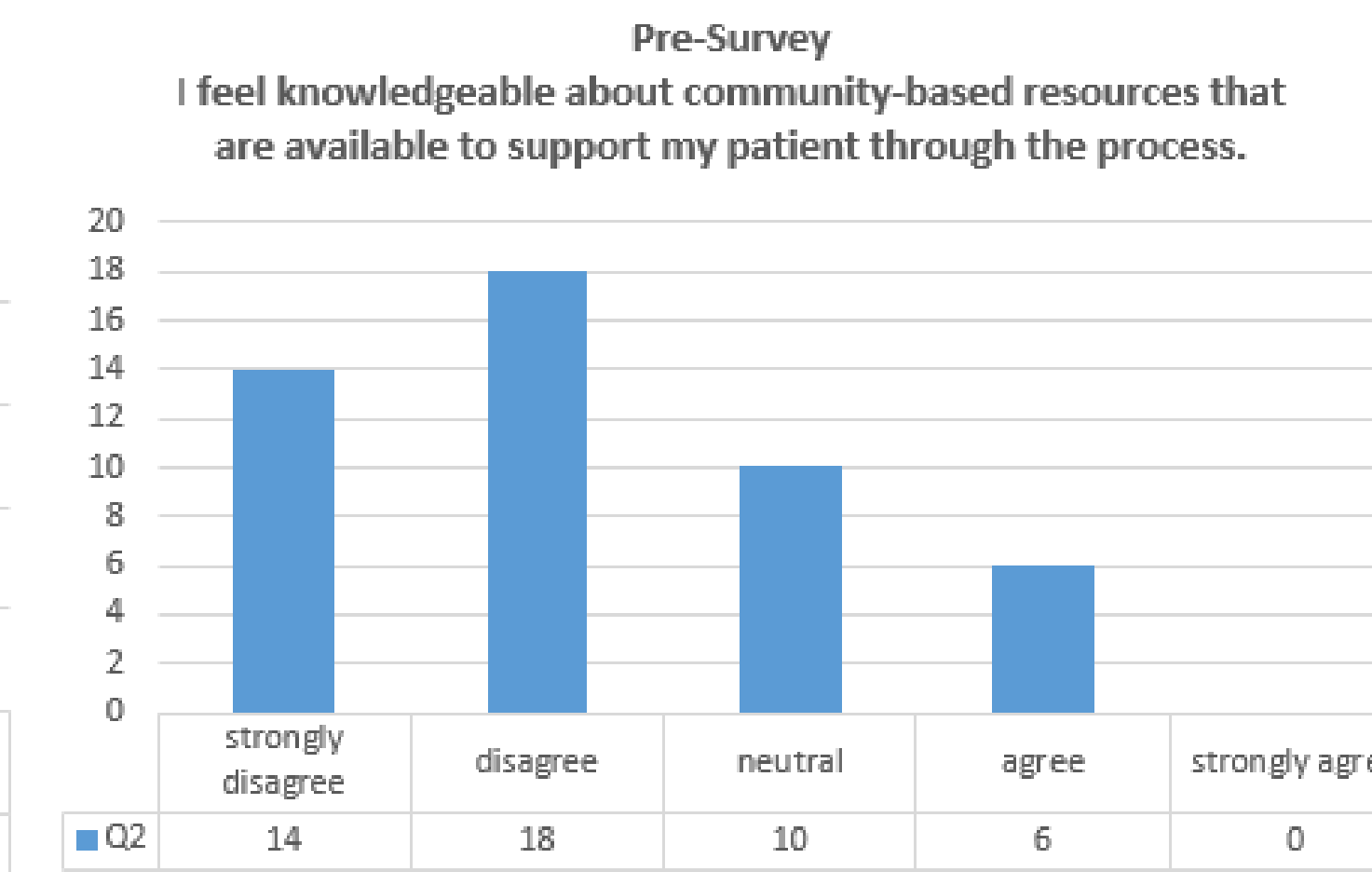
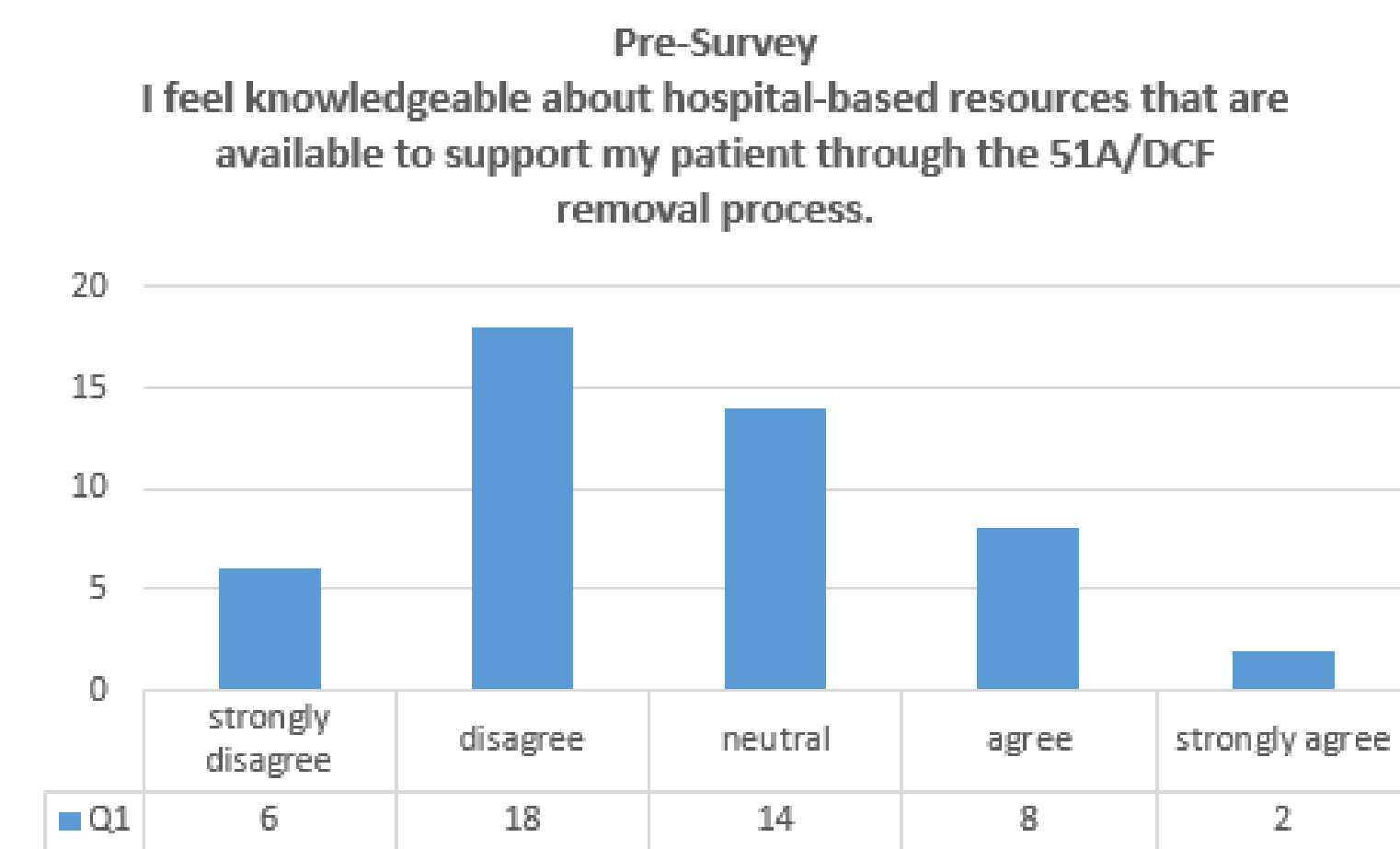
To create a guideline and nursing education to support families through the 51A process and custody removal.

## Intervention

- A new advisory team, Multidisciplinary Assistance for Parents or MAP Team was created to explore all potential supports available to nurses and families both in Baystate Health and in the community.
- The team came together to create a comprehensive list of resources for nurses and families to engage with in the case of custody removal.
- A new “resource folder” was created containing DCF information, a hospital-based resource list, community resources, a communication tool, and a nursing checklist.
- A nursing checklist was created to improve communication and to act as a guide.
- Pre-intervention surveys were completed by nursing staff.
- Debriefs were implemented after every DCF removal.
- The Wesson Women’s social workers and educator provided several one-hour training sessions for nurses regarding the DCF process and utilization of the “resource folder”.

## Results

- A pre-education survey was completed by 48 OB nurses. They questions were created to gage nurses’ confidence and knowledge about available resources, feelings of support, and assessment of team communication.



## Conclusion

- Post-removal debriefs which were designed to re-assess these same areas are showing considerable improvements in nurses’ experiences in caring for families with custody loss from the postpartum units. This data collection is ongoing.
- The MAP Team now meets quarterly to review feedback from the debrief forms and to make continued improvements.
- Nursing feedback from debriefs continues to be collected and compared with pre-education feedback.

## Future Work

Phase two of this project will include:

- 1) Comparison of nurse knowledge and confidence for one-year pre and post education.
- 2) Patient outcomes analysis including length of stay, rates of moms leaving the hospital against medical advice, and utilization of resources offered.

