PSE Change Case study Reflection

*This is a PSE change case study. Use it as a root cause analysis reflection guide to consider PSE solutions for the issue below. Please visit our* [*website*](https://mahealthfunds.org/policy-systems-environmental-change-approaches/) *for more information.*

**Root Cause Analysis** is a technique that can help answer the question of why a problem is occurring. It works to identify the source of a problem so that we can identify the most appropriate solutions. There are several tools and processes you can use to conduct a root cause analysis, but the basic approach is to simply ask “Why?” working backwards from the problem until you identify the deeper causes. Policy, systems, and environmental changes are a valuable tool to address those deeper root causes and improve conditions that impact population health.

**Scenario:** In a rural community, a pregnant woman named Sarah has limited access to maternal care. She lives in a remote area with no nearby maternity clinic or hospital. The nearest maternity care facility is a two-hour drive away. Sarah doesn't own a car, and public transportation options are scarce. She has Medicaid coverage, but she is concerned about the cost of transportation and potential childcare expenses for her other children while she attends prenatal appointments. As a result, Sarah's access to essential prenatal care is severely limited, which can have negative implications for her health and the health of her baby.

**What’s happening**:

**Root cause question:** What is the root cause of the negative health outcomes for rural pregnant women?

**What are the PSE Change solutions?**

**How do you engage the community?**