



State of Louisiana

Department of Health and Hospitals

Office of Public Health

LOUISIANA COMMISSION ON PERINATAL CARE AND PREVENTION OF INFANT MORTALITY

DHH Bienville Building, 628 N 4th St, 1st Floor Room 173 Baton Rouge, LA 70802
Optional call-in for members 1888-204-5984 Access Code 1982918
November 13, 2014

Attendees: Dr. Rebecca Accardo (phone), Dr. P. Scott Barrilleaux, Chair, Rep. Regina Barrow, Gaye Dean, Pam Egan, Dr. William Gill (phone), Amy Zapata

Guests: Karis Schoellmann, Becky Majdoch, Ashley Politz (phone), Melissa McNeil, Ekwutosi Okoroh; Regional MCH Coordinators: Kelly Bankston (phone), Chris Cornell (phone), Annelle Tanner, Lisa Norman

Meeting Notes:

1) Review/Approval of Minutes

- Members voted unanimously to approve and accept the meeting notes of the September 2014 and October 2014.

2) Proposed Operating Guidelines

- Members reviewed the updated draft of the proposed *Operating Guidelines*. Clarification was provided by Rep Barrow regarding the rules defining a quorum, in particular that a member calling-in to a meeting (vs. physical attendance) does not count towards a quorum. The document will be updated to comply with this rule.
- Members voted unanimously to adopt the *Operating Guidelines* with the above change.
- Commission members noted the challenges to participation and membership retention due to the current interpretation that formal voting requires in-person participation. In order to facilitate the progress and work flow of the Commission, and to facilitate engaging representation from other areas of the state, members requested that Rep Barrow explore the feasibility of requesting a change in the definition/rules for the Perinatal Commission, thereby allowing members to actively vote/participate when on the phone (Skype/Webinars etc.).

3) Perinatal Commission Membership

- The Commission reviewed current vacancies and recommended Dr. Rodney Wise, and Dr. Cliff Moore for the positions of Health Care Administrator (private sector) and Perinatologist, respectively. Their names will be sent to the Dept. of Boards and Commission for approval.
- Dr. Blereau has been confirmed by the Dept. of Boards and Commission to be able to remain on the Commission, now serving in the position of Family Practitioner.
- Additional recommendations will be explored by members and discussed at subsequent meetings. Names for consideration by the Commission will be sent in by various members and guests.

4) Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome (NAS)

- The Commission continued to dialogue about the issue and the extent of the problem in Louisiana.
- Dr. Ekwutosi Okoroh, CDC epidemiologist assignee to Louisiana Medicaid, and Melissa McNeil, epidemiologist of the OPH-Bureau of Family Health, presented an overview of a preliminary analysis of 2013 La Medicaid data that had been requested by the Commission, regarding NAS prevalence and total expenditures associated with NAS infants in the first 6 months of life (PPT slides distributed). Next level of analysis to validate findings and explore utilization and linkages to care will be conducted.
- Members voted unanimously to adopt the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO) report: *Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome: How States Can Help Advance the Knowledge Base for Primary Prevention and Best Practices of Care* (<http://www.astho.org/prevention/nas-neonatal-abstinence-report/>) as guidance for the Commissions proposed/potential actions.
 - Karis Schoellmann will resend the ASTHO report to members.
 - Several options for action that had been discussed in previous meetings were reviewed. Karis Schoellmann will build a tool based on the above ASTHO guidance and plot out proposed and potential plans of activity for the Commission (including reaching out to ACOG and the Louisiana Board of Medical Examiners etc.)
- Members voted unanimously to request that the DHH- Office of Public Health determine the feasibility of making NAS a reportable condition. Melissa McNeil will assist with exploring feasibility.
- Members voted unanimously to formally request additional information from LA Medicaid regarding what the health plans do regarding screening, linkage to care, treatment, and supportive services for the family and child.

5) Louisiana DHH Medicaid

- Members will continue to pursue and formalize a formal, structured relationship between Medicaid and the Commission.

6) Other Business

- New Perinatal Commission meeting agenda item for Jan, 2015: Discuss and explore making it legal for parents (of a fetus w/ anencephaly, for example) to donate the newborn's organs, heart etc. A legal representative of the Louisiana Organ Procurement Agency (LOPA's) will be invited to the Jan meeting to present/discuss.

7) Upcoming Meetings

- Teleconference on Dec 11, 2014 from 12:30-1:30. Call 1-888-204-5984, code 1982918
- In-Person Meeting: Jan 8, 2015 from 1:00-3:00 at the Bienville Building, Baton Rouge
- Karis Schoellmann will explore the possibility of coordinating Perinatal Commission meeting dates and times with the Louisiana Reproductive Health Advisory Board for calendar year 2015.