



# State of Louisiana

Louisiana Department of Health  
Office of Public Health

## LOUISIANA COMMISSION ON PERINATAL CARE AND PREVENTION OF INFANT MORTALITY

November 18, 2021, 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM

**Virtual Link:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81701298588>

Phone: 602- 333- 0032 Conference code: 695902

I. Call to Order /Welcome & Introductions

Member	Position	Present or Absent
Amar Nijjar	Neonatologist	Absent
Amy Zapata	Public Health Care Administrator	Present
Aundria Cannon	Nurse Practitioner in Women's Health	Present
Courtney Kling Campbell	Pediatrition	Absent
Emily Stevens	Social Worker	Absent
Erica Moss	Neonatal Nurse	Present
Joey Biggio	Perinatologist	Present
Leslie Lewis	Nutritionist	Present
Marshall St. Amant	Perinatologist	Present
Rep. Rhonda Butler	Representative	Absent
Rodney Wise	Private Health Care Administrator	Present
Scott Barrilleaux	Chair - Perinatologist	Present
Sen. Regina Barrow	Senator	Absent

Robert Blereau	Family Practitioner	Absent
Steve Spedale	Neonatologist	Present
Tina Stefanski	Family Planning Representative	Absent

<b>Guests</b>	<b>Organization</b>
Amanda Dumas	Keshia Holmes
Amy Ladley	Kristy Ferguson
Becky Majdoch	Laurel Kitto
Berkley Durbin	Liz Keenan
Cheri Johnson	Marci Brewer
Daniella Mistretta	Mathew Wallace
Debra Fuller	Rachel Purgatorio
Dionka Pierce	Rachelle Boudreaux
Frankie Robertson	Shelly Ryan Gray
Kerrie Redmond	Veronica Gillispie-Bell

- II. Review/approval of previous meeting minutes
  - a. With a quorum present, meeting minutes from July and October 2021 were unanimously approved.
- III. Legislative Updates: Resolutions and Implementation
  - a. Free Standing Birthing Facilities – Dr. Gillispie-Bell reported that the rulemaking has been published and Health Standards is taking public comment and working through these.
  - b. Maternal Levels of Care – The Notice of Intent was published in the December register. Working through making sure everyone is on the same page.
  - c. Other
    - i. HB 190 – Doula Registry –The first meeting of the legislatively mandated, newly created Doula Registry Board will be scheduled in January 2022.
    - ii. HCR 105 – Louisiana Maternal Mental Health Task Force, established to assure access to quality care, has been assigned to the Louisiana Department of Health (LDH). The Institute of Women and Ethnic Studies (IWES) has been contracted to help support convening and facilitating meetings.
    - iii. HCR 103 – Implementation of this legislation related to assuring maternal mental health access to services has been assigned to LDH. There is an Office of Public Health (OPH)-Bureau of Family Health (BFH) led Task force, which includes the Office of Behavioral Health (OBH) that is working through this legislation starting with an inventory of LDH programs that address maternal mental health.

- iv. Act 210 – LDH (BFH) is leading an assessment across LDH for the potential creation of an Office of Women’s Health. Dr. Lyn Kieltyka is assisting with data analysis and synthesis.
  - v. Act 305 – Three conditions have been added to the newborn screening registry and will go through rulemaking for implementation.
  - vi. Act 320 – Creates a Domestic Violence Fatality Review team within LDH. A team is being identified, grant money being sought, and the work is being incorporated into the work of the BFH mortality review processes.
- IV. Title X lifting of restrictions
- a. Gail Gibson provided a brief update on the restoration of the federal policy allowing healthcare providers who receive Title X funds to inform patients about the full range of reproductive healthcare options. Because of state policy, this makes little impact for Louisiana. Further enhancements to the federal policy include requirement that services and language be more inclusive, trauma-informed and ensure equitable and quality service delivery. BFH will submit the Title X grant application early January 2022.
- V. Perinatal Commission authorized projects
- a. Louisiana Perinatal Quality Collaborative (LaPQC) – Amy Ladley reported that they are on track to designate another batch of facilities (Birth Ready Designation). More to come in subsequent meetings on the Labor Culture survey that was done. The Improving Care for the Substance-Exposed Dyad (ICSED) initiative launched in Sep.2021 and is working from recommendations from the PAMR Report and the Commission’s 2016 Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome (NAS) study resolution.
  - b. Pregnancy Associated Mortality Surveillance (PAMR) – Everything on track, no report
  - c. Fetal Infant Mortality Review (FIMR) – No update
- VI. Workgroup Reports/Updates and Discussion
- a. Mental Health Workgroup – Dr. Hussey reported that they have met a few times. There is a lot of activity related to HCR 103 and 105. OBH is co-publishing a response to resolutions with OPH. Workgroup is considering pausing until responses are submitted to avoid duplicating efforts, and then the workgroup will review and respond to these reports.
  - b. Telehealth/Telemedicine Workgroup – Dr. Gillispie-Bell reported that there are many people in the “think tank”. The group has been discussing where and when telehealth is most useful, i.e., counseling vs. where touch and feel may be needed. Group is thinking that a pilot is needed before a statewide policy is recommended. Telehealth is likely not a one size fits all situation, and lowest hanging fruit may be the parts that need counseling/talking.
  - c. Postpartum Care Workgroup – Amy Zapata reported on the progress of the group. They have identified specific areas of concern:
    - i. Inadequate hospital LARC utilization
    - ii. Lower reimbursement rates for gynecological procedures prompting providers to drop patients after six weeks of postpartum coverage
    - iii. Undocumented mothers’ loss of insurance after delivery, losing all access to the medical system after delivery/postpartum

- iv. Lack of postpartum and gynecological care leading to long term health disparities and disease progression and lack of preventative medical services
  - v. Lack of access to postpartum and gynecological services to un/underinsured women in Louisiana
- VII. Other Updates
  - a. March of Dimes – Better Birth Outcomes – no update
  - b. LDH Business Plan – has been published and will be sent to members.
  - c. Amy Zapata let Commission members know that Karis Schoellmann’s role will be changing in the new year and other support staff will be assigned from the BFH.
- VIII. Adjourn – The December meeting will be skipped. The next Perinatal Commission meeting will be January 20, 2022, 1:00 PM-3:00 PM

\*Note: the order of the agenda may not be followed exactly, to accommodate presenter schedules