



State of Louisiana
Louisiana Department of Health
Office of Public Health

LOUISIANA COMMISSION ON PERINATAL CARE AND PREVENTION OF INFANT MORTALITY

May 16, 2024
1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Location:
Louisiana State Capitol
900 N Third Street
Baton Rouge, LA
Governor's Press Room

Meeting link for members of the public
<https://zoom.us/j/6789754537?pwd=QVRlMUg4UzhPdDBaZHBhc2ZMRkY5dz09&omn=95046458509>
Phone: 1.312.626.6799 Conference code: 674551

Minutes

I. Roll Call

Meeting called to order by Dr. Scott Barrilleaux, Chair, at 1:14 P.M.

II. Introductions

Eleven members attended. A quorum was present. Members in attendance included Dr. Scott Barrilleaux, Dr. Joseph Biggio, Dr. Karli Boggs, Dr. Courtney Campbell, Ms. Aundria Cannon, Ms. Leslie Lewis, Ms. Erika Moss, Dr. Steve Spedale, Ms. Emily Stevens, Ms. Amy Zapata, and Dr. Rodney Wise. Members absent included Senator Regina Barrow, Representative Stephanie Berault, Dr. Amarjit Nijjar, Dr. Marshall St. Amant, and Dr. Vincent Shaw. Guests in attendance included Dr. Glenda Johnson, Mr. Matthew Wallace, Ms. Carrie Templeton, Ms. Berkley Durbin, Dr. Ann Kay Logarbo, Ms. Frankie Robertson, Ms. Chaila Scott, Dr. Veronica Gillispie-Bell (virtual), and Dr. Ayesha Umrigar (virtual). Ms. Yoruba Baltrip-Coleman served as administrative staff for the meeting.

III. Public Comment

The chair called for public comments. There were no public comments.

IV. Approval of Meeting Minutes

The chair requested Perinatal Commission members to silently review the January 18, 2024 and March 21, 2024 meeting minutes. Dr. Biggio motioned to accept meeting minutes from January 18 and March 21; and Dr. Wise seconded the motion. The above meeting minutes were unanimously approved.

V. Participation by Free-standing Birth Centers (FSBCs) and Birthing Hospitals in Louisiana Perinatal Quality Collaborative (LaPQC) Discussion and Vote

Dr. Veronica Gillispie-Bell, Bureau of Family Health (BFH) Medical Director for the LaPQC and Pregnancy Associated Mortality Review (PAMR) and Ochsner Health obstetrician-gynecologist.

Dr. Gillispie-Bell gave an overview of how participation of FSBCs in LaPQC initiatives will be defined and reviewed operationalizing the participation definition of birthing hospitals in LaPQC initiatives. The chair asked for questions and/or discussion. There were no questions or discussions. Dr. Spedale motioned to approve and accept operationalizing the participation definition of birthing hospitals in LaPQC initiatives and to define participation of FSBCs in LaPQC initiatives as outlined by Dr. Gillispie-Bell. Ms. Cannon seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

VI. Pregnancy Associated Mortality Review (PAMR) Updates

Dr. Veronica Gillispie-Bell, Bureau of Family Health (BFH) Medical Director for the LaPQC and PAMR, and Ochsner Health obstetrician-gynecologist.

- a. The 2020 PAMR Report was published in April 2024. The Maternal Mortality Review Committee (MMRC) reviewed all maternal deaths defined as the death of an individual while pregnant or within one year of pregnancy, regardless of cause. Key findings from the 2020 PAMR report reflected a pregnancy-associated mortality ratio of 144.8 deaths per 100,000 births in Louisiana, with the leading cause of pregnancy-associated deaths (28 out of 82) due to accidental overdose. The report may be found [here](#).
- b. Dr. Gillispie-Bell informed the Commission that the LaPQC will begin disseminating letters to hospitals at the end of each calendar year with information regarding birthing individuals who have experience a maternal death.

VII. UnitedHealth Group Specific Resources/Care Coordination Resources and Access Updates

Dr. Glenda Johnson, MD, Chief Medical Officer, UnitedHealth Group (UHG) Managed Care Organization (MCO)

At the request of the Perinatal Commission, Dr. Johnson (UHG) presented information on the MCO's care coordination deliverables, including the three tiers of case management for pregnant and postpartum members based on risk categories identified.

- Once a *Health Needs Assessment* form is completed, an MCO can use predictive modeling to help further categorize and modify the member's care.
- UHG submits monthly reports to LDH Medicaid on the number of health needs assessments completed, plans of care implemented for each member enrolled categorized by the LDH administrative region and respective tiered-level of case managements, explanations on the members not enrolled, and the number of attempted contacts per member.
- The *Pregnancy Report* is a separate report sent to LDH and includes members with a new diagnosis of pregnancy and end dates for pregnancies.
- UnitedHealth Group reviewed their network adequacy standards related to treatment of pregnant and postpartum women with depression or related mental health disorders.
- Current interventions aimed at decreasing congenital syphilis involve potentially increasing the screening rates for syphilis beyond the first and third trimester of pregnant moms, using a specialized maternal case management team to better identify at-risk members and triaging cases to higher levels of case management, and vendor outreach to share education and encourage testing.
- Dr. Johnson noted that the expansion of Medicaid managed care coverage for one year post-pregnancy has had a positive impact on helping to ensure medication receipt and follow up care for members living with chronic health issues. As noted with previous MCO presentations, UnitedHealth Group noted low case management participation numbers, citing possible reasons being the three-page long LDH required form, and

that some members are hesitant to self-report or seek care in cases of substance use/abuse or mental health issues due to fear of legal implications.

VIII. Public Comment

The chair called for public comments. There were no public comments.

IX. Legislative Updates

Dr. Ayesha Umrigar, Bureau of Family Health (BFH) Legislative Coordinator

Dr. Umrigar presented legislative instruments filed or heard during the 2024 Regular Legislative Session that may impact or be connected to the work of the Perinatal Commission. Dr. Umrigar will provide slides to the Commission’s support staff to be shared with Perinatal Commission members.

X. Adjournment

A motion was made by Dr. Spedale to adjourn, seconded by Dr. Wise. The meeting adjourned at 3:12 P.M.

Note: the order of the agenda may not be followed as listed in order to accommodate presenter schedules.

Presenters, members, and guests may submit requests for accessibility and accommodations prior to a scheduled meeting. Please submit a request to PerinatalCommission@la.gov at least 48 hours prior to the meeting with details of the required accommodations.

In lieu of verbal public comment, individuals may submit a prepared statement in accordance with Senate Rule 13.79. Statements should be emailed to PerinatalCommission@la.gov and must be received at least 24 hours prior to the meeting to be included in the record for the meeting.