

# NCIOM Task Force on a Perinatal System of Care

Overview of Task Force Process and Charge

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# NC Institute of Medicine

- Quasi-state agency chartered in 1983 by the NC General Assembly to:
  - Be concerned with the health of the people of North Carolina
  - Monitor and study health matters
  - Respond authoritatively when found advisable
  - Respond to requests from outside sources for analysis and advice when this will aid in forming a basis for health policy decisions

*NCGS §90-470*



# NCIOM Studies

- NCIOM studies issues at the request of:
  - North Carolina General Assembly
  - North Carolina state agencies
  - Health professional organizations
  - NCIOM Board of Directors
- Often work in partnership with other organizations to study health issues



# Recent NCIOM Studies

- Some recent studies include:
  - Accountable Care Communities (2019)
  - Metrics to Drive Improvements in Health: A Report of the Task Force on Health Care Analytics (2017)
  - Claims to Improve Health in North Carolina: A Report from the NCIOM Task Force on All-Payer Claims Database (2017)
  - Transforming North Carolina's Mental health and Substance use Systems: A Report from the NCIOM Task Force on Mental Health and Substance Use (2016)
  - Dementia-Capable North Carolina: A Strategic Plan for Addressing Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementia (2016)
  - Patient and Family Engagement: A Partnership for Culture Change (2015)
  - Task Force on Essentials for Childhood: Safe, Stable, and Nurturing Relationships and Environments to Prevent Child Maltreatment (2015)



# NCMJ

- NCIOM also publishes the *NCMJ*
  - Each issue contains a special focus area with articles and commentaries discussing specific health issues
  - We plan to publish the executive summary of the Task Force in the NCMJ as well as devoting a issue to NC's developing perinatal system of care.
    - *NC Medical Journal* circulated to more than 170,000 people across the state



# Task Force Process

- NCIOM creates broad-based task forces to study health issues facing the state
  - Task Forces generally comprised of 30-60 people
  - Task Forces are guided by co-chairs who run the meetings
  - Task Force members typically include representatives of state and local policy makers and agency officials, health professionals, insurers, business and community leaders, consumers and other interested individuals
  - Meetings are open to the public

# Task Force Process (cont'd)

- Task Force work guided by a smaller steering committee
  - People with expertise or knowledge of the issue
  - Help shape the agenda and identify potential speakers
- Presentations
  - May include research summaries and/or statistics, descriptions of programs, challenges or barriers to best practices, national developments
  - Presenters may include task force members, researchers, national or state leaders, state health care professionals, consumers, or NCIOM staff

# Task Force Process (cont'd)

- NCIOM staff
  - NCIOM staff will prepare agendas, invite speakers, gather information, and identify evidence-based studies when available to inform the Task Force's work
  - Staff write first draft of the report, and seek input from the Task Force and Steering Committee members



# Task Force Process (cont'd)

- Task Force report
  - Report is circulated several times before being finalized
- NCIOM Board of Directors
  - Board members must review the report before it is finalized
- Reports distributed widely, other dissemination
  - Shorter 4-6 page Issue Brief
  - Update published 3-5 years after report is published.

# Meeting Materials on NCIOM Website



## Perinatal System of Care

North Carolina ranks 42nd in infant mortality with 7.1 infant deaths per 1,000 live births, considerably higher than the national average. To improve maternal and birth outcomes, the North Carolina Division of Public Health, developed North Carolina's Perinatal Health Strategic Plan 2016-2020. Goal 3 of the plan is to "improve the quality of maternal care." One of the strategies for this goal is to "ensure that pregnant women and high-risk infants have access to the appropriate level of care through a well-established regional perinatal system." This NCIOM Task Force, in partnership with the Women's and Children's Health Section, Division of Public Health, NC Department of Health and Human Services will convene to respond to Session Law 2018-93 and develop a perinatal system of care for the state.

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- We know that Task Force members may have conflicts for some of the meetings
  - We host webinars and conference calls for each meeting so that you can follow online or participate over the phone
  - We post meeting summaries and all meeting presentations on our website: [www.nciom.org](http://www.nciom.org)
  - Calendar and directions also available on the NCIOM website

# Task Force Charge

- Perinatal health strategic plan developed by DHHS for 2016-2020.
- Goal 3 to improve the quality of maternal care and ensure appropriate care for high risk women and newborns.
- Study represents a partnership between NCIOM and DHHS
- SL 2018-93 NCGA
  - shall study and analyze North Carolina's ability to provide women with timely and equitable access to high-quality, risk-appropriate maternal and neonatal care.



# Specific Requirements (SL2018-93)

- (1) The complexity levels of care currently being provided by all delivering hospitals in caring for birth mothers and newborns.
- (2) How current systems of referral and transport to different facilities and specialty providers based on patient risk are being managed.
- (3) Disparities in access to risk-appropriate maternal and hospital care.
- (4) Service gaps.
- (5) Issues that impact the ability to most appropriately match patient need with provider skill.
- (6) Recommendations for actionable steps that can be taken in North Carolina to best ensure that pregnant women receive quality prenatal care and that mothers and newborns are cared for in a facility that can meet their specific clinical needs.
- (7) Any other issues the Department deems relevant to this study.



# For More Information

- Support for this Task Force comes from the NC Department of Health and Human Services
- Websites: [www.nciom.org](http://www.nciom.org)  
[www.ncmedicaljournal.com](http://www.ncmedicaljournal.com)
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