

TASK FORCE ON RISK APPROPRIATE PERINATAL SYSTEMS OF CARE

MEETING SUMMARY

June 24, 2019

10:00 am – 3:00 pm

North Carolina Institute of Medicine

630 Davis Drive

Morrisville, NC 27560

Attendees:

- *Steering Committee:* Belinda Pettiford, Amanda Murphy, Frieda Norris, Kay Mitchell, Tara Owens Shuler
- *Task Force Members:* Ashley Rodriguez, Michaela Penix, Beverly Yearwood, Amy Williford, Lorrie Basnight, Charea Mason, Melissa Johnson, Kelly Kimple, Mary Kimmel, Walidah Karim, Martha Bordeaux, Jennifer Grady, Sherika HiSmith George, Nancy Koerber, Kay Mitchell, Kimberly Harper, Sarah Dumas, Rachel Elledge, Lisa Sammons, Kimberly DeBerry, Kate Menard, Commander Patrielle Johnson, Tina Sherman, Latoshia Rouse, Michelle Bucknor, Jennifer Greene, Lisa Sammons, Velma Taormina, Chama Woydak, Tina Sherman, Walidah Karim, Rhonda Lee

Introductions

Project Director Robert Kurzydowski opened the meeting and asked attendees to introduce themselves. Steering committee members, Task Force members, staff, guests, and speakers introduced themselves, including their position and the organization they represent.

Why Does Centering Matter? (Video)

Centering Pregnancy: Background, Data, Outcomes, Best Practices

Carmen G. Strickland, MD, MPH, Family Medicine, Primary Care, Wake Forest Baptist Health

Mary Fitzmaurice, MSN, CNM, Regional Director, Centering Healthcare Institute

Ms. Fitzmaurice began the presentation by providing an overview of centering and where it has been implemented in the country. She described the three key aspects of centering: health assessment, interactive learning, and community building, and discussed how those components can contribute to improved pregnancy outcomes. In particular, she highlighted the benefits of the positive effect of group assessment and discussion on mothers' individual pregnancy experiences.

The second part of Ms. Fitzmaurice's presentation focused on the structure of the Centering Healthcare Institute, and the applicability of its services to existing practices. During this discussion, she emphasized the steps necessary to create a centering program and explored the barriers and necessary resources for a successful program.

Dr. Strickland continued the presentation by discussing the state of centering in North Carolina. She cited the approximately 30 centering sites in NC, and the distribution of the sites across the state.

Both presenters then closed the discussion on centering by discussing how the system of care is developing in other states and how lessons could be derived from these models to guide development in North Carolina.

Childbirth Education: Background, Data, Outcomes, Best Practices

Tara Owens Shuler, M.Ed., LCCE, FACCE, Perinatal Health Unit Manager, Division of Public Health, Women's Health Branch, NCDHHS

Frieda L. Norris, MPH, BSN, FACCE, LCCE, CIMI, Perinatal Educator, The Birthplace- CaroMont Regional Medical Center

Ms. Shuler and Ms. Norris began by discussing the modern focus of Lamaze Childbirth Education and its emphasis on building knowledge, confidence, and skills for expectant mothers. They further focused on the importance of curating messages that contribute to better birth outcomes and use the six healthy birth practices to align messaging with ACOG guidelines. Ms. Shuler also discussed the certification required to be a childbirth educator and the role of Local Health Departments in providing childbirth education services to women across North Carolina. Finally, Ms. Shuler provided information about existing childbirth education services in North Carolina and how those services are paid for. In closing, she offered a list of recommendations for consideration by the Task Force.

Doulas: Background, Data, Outcomes, Best Practices

Chama Woydak, LCCE, CD(DONA), BDT(DONA), Owner, Homegrown Babies & Homegrown Families Health and Education Center

Ms. Woydak presented on the benefits of doula care and the roles that doulas can play in the perinatal process. She highlighted the ways in which doulas can provide an added layer of support for pregnant and postpartum women and can help empower women to better engage with their healthcare. Barriers to accessing doula care are cost and insurance coverage, availability, and diversity of practicing doulas. Solutions to these barriers could be expanding coverage of doula services, and finding ways to certify doulas in a way that does not discourage membership from different cultural groups. The presentation closed with questions from the task force about distribution of doulas across the state and ways that doulas can be educated on providing specialized support to women facing adverse SDOH-related experiences and substance abuse disorder.

PHP & LHD Discussion Panel

Tammy Connolly, RN, BSN, CCM, Corporate Director, Bright Start, AmeriHealth Caritas NC

Mairead McInerney, MSW, LCSW, CCM, Corporate Director, Population Health Integration, AmeriHealth Caritas NC

Sue Lynn Ledford, DrPh, MPA, BSN, RN, Director, Population Health and Field Services, Wellcare NC

William Lawrence, MD, FAAP, Chief Medical Officer, Carolina Complete Health

Michelle Bucknor, MD, MBA, Chief Medical Officer, United Healthcare

Merle Green, MPH, MBA, Health Director, Guilford County Health Department

The PHP and LHD panel fielded questions about how patients and providers will be educated about the new Medicaid Transformation System and discussed ways in which value-added services related to perinatal care will be incorporated into PHPs. Additionally, the panelists touched on ways in which Advanced Medical Homes will be part of the new system and how access to specialists and network adequacy will be addressed. Questions from the task force included strategies for educating providers, care management plans and how and for whom care management services will be offered. Finally, the PHPs were asked about how they will address health disparities, and panelists detailed how they will use disparities data to develop tailored interventions for their customer populations.

Community Health Workers: Background, Data, Outcomes, Best Practices

Charea Mason, Outreach Coordinator, Christian Faith Center

Ms. Mason gave an overview of the work of her program does with new and expectant mothers and the impact the program has had on reducing health disparities. She discussed the four main components of the program: enrollment, home visits, group empowerment, and community involvement, and discussed the added benefits of additional services that the program can connect participants to. Ms. Mason closed her presentation by discussing the financial, transportation, and support barriers that programs participants face and the financial and psychological barriers that outreach workers navigate when working with participants. The Task Force then asked questions about program volume, connection with LHDs and opportunity for growth of Community Health Worker programs in the state.

Wrap-Up and Next Steps

Robert Kurzydowski, JD, MPH, Project Director, NCIOM

Mr. Kurzydowski thanked task force members for their attendance and reminded everyone of the upcoming task force meeting on July 29th.