

## TASK FORCE ON MATERNAL HEALTH

### MEETING SUMMARY

June 8, 2020

1:00 pm – 3:00 pm

Virtual Meeting Conducted Over Zoom

#### **Attendees:**

Ste'Keira Shepperson, Carolyn Harraway-Smith, Shannon Dowler, Cindy Craig, Adam Zolotor, Michelle Ries, James Coleman, Emily Hooks, Belinda Pettiford, Ami Goldstein, Amy Santin, Amy Urieta, Arthur Ollendorf, Ashley Rodriguez, Brittney Sala, Chris Pernell, Cornell Wright, Doris Robinson, Dorthy Cilenti, Ellen Chetwynd, Frida Norris, Jacqueline Wynn, Janice Freedman, Jennifer Grady, Joan East, Julie Ghurtskaia, Julie Lovingood, Kacie McLaughlin, Kaitlyn Tanner, Kate Menard, Kay Mitchell, Keisha Bentley-Edwards, Kella Hatcher, Kelly Crosbie, Kelly Kimple, LaToshia Rouse, Maria Small, Mary Kimmel, Melissa Godwin, Michelle Bucknor, Nick Galvez, Nicole Johnson, Nicole McKinney, Rachel Singley, Rachel Urrutia, Rebecca Severin, Rennee Clark, Richard Kirsch, Peter Roethling, Sarah Verbiest, Sarahn Wheeler, Susan Ledford, Sarah McCracken, Shelby Weeks, Sherika HiSmith George, Stacy Warren, Starleen Scott Robbins, Susan Robinson, Susanne Dickson, Tahara Boston, Tammy Connolly, Tara Shuler, Teresa Ellen, Tina Sherman, Tish Singletary, Tomeka Isaac, Velma Taormina, Veronica Piper

#### **Overview of Maternal Health Innovations Grant and the Scope of Work for Maternal Health Task Force**

***Belinda Pettiford, MPH, Branch Head, Division of Public Health, Women's Health Branch, NCDHHS***

After brief introductions of the steering committee members and task force members, Ms. Pettiford reviewed the purpose, objectives, and measures of the Maternal Health Innovations Grant, a five-year grant with the focus of promoting and executing innovation in maternal health. Ms. Pettiford reviewed existing state-wide partnerships and noted that the task force will be crucial in determining innovative and feasible approaches to meeting the objectives of the grant.

#### **Introduction to NCIOM**

***Adam Zolotor, MD, DrPH, President and CEO, North Carolina Institute of Medicine (NCIOM)***

Dr. Zolotor provided an overview of the history of the NCIOM and recent work done at the request of the General Assembly, state agencies, professional organizations, and other partners. Dr. Zolotor then provided an overview of the task force process. He reviewed Session Law 2018-93 which directs DHHS to study issues pertaining to high-quality, risk-appropriate maternal and neonatal care. He provided a brief overview of the pertinent recommendations of the Perinatal Systems of Care Task Force.

#### **Overview of the State Perinatal Health Strategic Plan**

***Belinda Pettiford, MPH, Branch Head, Division of Public Health, Women's Health Branch, NCDHHS***

Ms. Pettiford provided an overview of the Perinatal Health Strategic Plan (PHSP) which was released in March 2016 and focuses on infant mortality, maternal health, maternal morbidity, and the health of women and men of childbearing age. The plan is focused on health equity so that everyone has access to resources and opportunities that promote good health. She then reviewed the goals of the PHSP and work groups that are essential to supporting, informing, and promoting the goals of the PHSP.

### **North Carolina Maternal Mortality Review Committee Process and Recommendations**

***Maria Small, MD, MPH, Associate Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Division of Maternal Fetal Medicine, Duke Obstetrics & Gynecology***

Dr. Small provided a brief overview of the history of the Maternal Mortality Review Committee (MMRC) and research that demonstrated that 40% of maternal deaths in NC were preventable, with African American women more likely to have preventable deaths than white women. She explained the composition of MMRC and the review process. She explained that although overall maternal mortality rate has decreased in North Carolina, there is still a racial gap in the maternal mortality rate.

### **COVID-19 and Maternal Health: Guidelines from the North Carolina Maternity Care & COVID-19 Task Force**

***Ami Goldstein, CNM, FNP, Clinical Associate Professor, Department of Family Medicine, UNC-Chapel Hill School of Medicine***

Ms. Goldstein reviewed guidelines that were created to improve the experience of childbirth during the COVID-19 pandemic. The guidelines reiterate the need for health equity and advocate for COVID-19 disaggregated data that measures specific pregnancy-related impacts. The guidelines focus on safe and patient-centered birthing options and the critical need for at least one support person for birthing individuals' overall wellbeing and quality of care. They also focus on postpartum support and education that utilizes different media to broaden access.

### **Discussion Around the Maternal Health Task Force**

NCIOM staff led task force members in a discussion to determine what problems the task force will try to fix, what needs to be defined, how the task force can build on success, and what is missing from the task force scope.

### **Next Steps**

***James Coleman, MPH, Research Specialist, North Carolina Institute of Medicine***

Mr. Coleman thanked task force members for attending the meeting and reminded them of the next meeting date on July 16.