

TASK FORCE ON MATERNAL HEALTH
MEETING EIGHT SUMMARY
May 17, 2021
1:00 pm – 4:00 pm
Virtual Meeting Conducted Over Zoom

Attendees:

Alison Miller, Ami Goldstein, Amy Jo, Angela Still, Arthur Ollendorff, Ashley Stewart, Becky Moore-Patterson, Belinda Pettiford, Brienne Lyda-McDonald, Brittney Sala, Carmen Strickland, Chiara Phillips, Chloe Donohoe, Chris Westveer, Doris Robinson, Ebony Tate, Ellen Chetwynd, Emily Hannon, Erica Little, Erin McClain, Frieda Norris, Gerri Mattson, Heidi Knoll, James Coleman, Jennifer Grady, Jessica Noble, Jill Sergison, Joan East, Karen Burns, Karla Theobald, Kate Menard, Kathleen Jones-Vessey, Kathleen Knocke, Kathy Colville, Katlyn Tanner, Kay Mitchell, Keisha Bentley-Edwards, Kristin Resnik, Lily Stevens, Mary Kimmel, Melissa Godwin, Michael Sylvia, Michelle Bucknor, Michelle Ries, Mishawne Carrington, Nick Galvez, Nick Pearson, Rebecca Severin, Renee Clark, Sarah McCracken, Sarah Verbiest, Shelby Weeks, Susan Robinson, Tara Owens Shuler, Teresa Ellen, Tina Sherman, Tomeka James Isaac, Tonya Daniel, Tyonna Howard, Ushma Mehta, Velma Taormina, Walidah Karim

Welcome

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

Mr. Coleman thanked task members for joining. On behalf of the steering committee, Dr. Velma Taormina thanked the task force and provided an overview of the agenda.

Persons with Lived Experience Perspective

Mishawne Carrington, MSN, RN, Program Director for Nurse-Family Partnership, Guilford Child Development

Ms. Carrington shared her experience with post-partum depression after the birth of her daughter. Her experience led her to focus her work on helping mothers with postpartum mood disorders (PPMDs). When asked about recommendations for this taskforce to consider, Ms. Carrington emphasized the importance of including women with lived experience on the taskforce, encouraging the hiring of mental health counselors trained in PPMDs, and supplying mother with the resources that they need, including funding through Medicaid. Ms. Carrington shared about Guilford Child Development's on-staff mental health counselor and how this role helps mothers before, during and after pregnancies.

Overview of Healthy Start's Maternal Home Visiting Program

Tonya Daniel, NC Baby Love Plus Program Supervisor, Division of Public Health, Women's Health Branch, NC Department of Health and Human Services

Erica Little, Director, Healthy Start Robeson, Office for Regional Initiatives, University of North Carolina – Pembroke Overview of Healthy Start's Maternal Home Visiting Program

Ms. Daniels and Ms. Little shared an overview of the Healthy Start Initiative. The key components of the program include providing or coordinating transportation to doctor visits and health/wellness related appointments, offering breastfeeding support, providing behavioral health resources and teaching healthy eating classes. Healthy Start's Maternal Home Visiting Program is a component of the broader program that visits participants once a month to work through the Partners for Healthy Baby Curriculum, while also providing emergency supplies and service planning support for self-sufficiency.

Ms. Daniels and Ms. Little discussed several barriers facing the families served through this program, including lack of Wi-Fi, healthy food access issues, lack of resource for families, fear of social service agencies, especially when involving home visits, historical trauma/racism/ACES, and stigma of “case managing” fathers. The presenters ended by explaining ways that the Maternal Child Health Taskforce members could help.

DISCUSSION: MATERNAL HOME VISITING AND COMMUNITY-BASED MATERNAL HEALTH

Facilitated by the Maternal Health Task Force Steering Committee and NCIOM staff

The breakout groups discussed the following questions:

- What is the current state of maternal home visiting and other home-based maternal health programs across North Carolina? What are the facilitators and barriers for maternal home visiting and other home-based maternal health programs in our state?
- What resources (funding amounts, funding sources, payment models, workforce development, educational materials, etc.), if any, are needed in North Carolina to support and expand maternal home visiting and other home-based maternal health programs?
- Are there any maternal home visiting or other home-based maternal health programs, services, and resources in our state or others you would like to learn more about?

NORTH CAROLINA STATEWIDE BREASTING FEEDING HOTLINE

Emily A Hannon, MD, IBCLC, FAAP, Breastfeeding Co-coordinator, American Academy of Pediatrics – North Carolina Chapter, Pediatrician, Western Wake Pediatrics

Dr. Hannon began her presentation with a discussion of the main problems facing moms who want to breastfeed and who can help in our current system and practices. She emphasized that there are huge gaps for a lot families without the resources or connectivity to access breastfeeding supports. Dr. Hannon shared information about Tennessee’s breastfeeding hotline, which is a solution that could be replicated in North Carolina. If replicated, it would cost \$260,000 initially and save \$9.5 million per year in health care costs if breastfeeding increased by 11%. Dr. Hannon answered the questions of the group and the taskforce then went into breakout groups to discuss breastfeeding support and policy.

DISCUSSION: BREASTFEEDING SUPPORT AND POLICY

Facilitated by the Maternal Health Task Force Steering Committee and NCIOM staff

The breakout groups discussed the following questions:

- What is the current state of breastfeeding support/lactation consultation in North Carolina hospitals, medical practices, and communities? What are the facilitators and barriers for adequate breastfeeding support/lactation consultation in North Carolina hospitals, medical practices, and communities?
- What resources (funding amounts, funding sources, payment models, workforce development, educational materials, quality metrics etc.), if any, are needed in North Carolina to increase breastfeeding rates and access to breastfeeding support/lactation consultation?
- Are there any breastfeeding support/lactation consultation programs, services, and resources in our state or others you would like to learn more about?

DISCUSSION: BUILDING SUPPORT FOR PROPOSED POLICY SOLUTIONS/MATERNAL HEALTH LEGISLATION UPDATE

Time was cut for this presentation, so Ms. Colville and JMr. Coleman will present at the next task force meeting. There was a brief conversation about bills that did not make crossover. Mr. Coleman thanked task force members for attending the meeting and reminded them of the next meeting date on Thursday, July 15th from 1 pm – 4 pm.