

**LOUISIANA COMMISSION ON PERINATAL CARE AND
PREVENTION OF INFANT MORTALITY**

March 16, 2023 1:00 PM-3:00 PM

Location:

Louisiana State Capitol, 900 N. Third Street
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70802
4th Floor Press Room

Link for public viewing:

Zoom link

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81233198649>

Phone: 602 333 0032

Conference Code: 644895

MINUTES

****items voted on are noted in bold italics****

- I. Call to order/welcome and introductions – 10 min
 - a. Meeting called to order at 1:07pm.
 - b. Members Present: 9/16; quorum is present; attendance captured on page 5
 - c. Guests: Amanda Perry, M.Ed, NRP; Rachelle Boudreaux, MPH; Shane Bates, JD; Ayesha Umrigar, PhD; Berkley Durbin, JD; Elizabeth Lindsay; Lyn Kieltyka, PhD; Veronica Gillispie-Bell, MD
- II. ***Review/approval of previous meeting notes – 5 min***
 - a. ***Motion: Dr. Spedale***
 - b. ***Second: Dr. Wise***
 - c. ***Opposition: none; passed unanimously to approve minutes from Jan. 19, 2023 meeting***
- III. Systems of care – 5 min
 - a. Systems of Care did not have any updates.
- IV. Commission authorized projects– 5 min
 - a. **LaPQC-Dr. Gillispie**
 - Dr. Gillispie presented information on current surveillance efforts and shared information on entities that help to inform surveillance efforts. She shared some of the requirements for LaPQC from the CDC for reporting in order to be recognized as an AIM state.
 - Dr. Gillispie reviewed the bodies and entities informing how AIM bundles are crafted and what requirements are for LAPQC reporting, but also what entities are informing what are the best approaches to initiatives that LAPQC can collaborate with to organize and measure efforts
 - Developed a process for the next year (2024-2025) for LaPQC to include the Commission in determining which initiatives are priorities for the year

- Berkley Durbin questioned the role of facilities in determining initiatives for LaPQC. Dr. Gillispie shared that the LaPQC team within LDH shares plans and updates with facilities when deciding initiatives.
 - Dr. Spedale questioned whether or not facilities had the choice to choose initiatives to participate in depending on hospital capacity. Dr. Gillispie shared that LaPQC takes hospital capacity into consideration and sometimes hospitals are no longer part of the collaborative if they are unable to meet requirements. However, the program continues to facilitate quarterly chats with facilities and utilize 30, 60, 90 plans for facilities requiring assistance due to capacity.
 - b. Free-standing birthing centers-Dr. Gillispie**
 - Dr. Gillispie stated there was an ongoing process for continuing to promulgate rules for free-standing birthing centers.
 - c. Announcement of new members-Dr. Spedale**
 - Dr. Karli Boggs introduced herself as the newest commission member serving as the Family Planning Representative.
- V. Legislative implementation – Ayesha Umrigar – 10 min
- a. Doula Registry Board**
 - Ayesha stated that the Board is continuing to promulgate rules for the doula registry, then will move on to the application process.
 - b. SR 87:** Requests the Department of Children and Family Services to enact policies relative to children giving birth
 - Dr. Spedale questioned how the legislation defined the term “adolescent” and Ayesha stated that it was not defined in the bill.
 - c. SR 131:** Establishes the Study Commission on Maternal Health and Wellbeing to make recommendations on connecting pregnant women and new mothers, particularly in rural and underserved areas, with resources for the health and wellbeing of the mother and child
 - Ayesha shared that the legislative report has been published and available to the public.
 - She stated that Senator Cathey will be sponsoring a bill as a result of the study commission, but it had not been pre-filed at that time.
 - d. 2023 Legislative Session**
 - **HB 5-** Provides relative to pregnancy-related medical expense obligations
 - **HB 117:** Requires public schools to provide free menstrual products in easily accessible locations
 - **HB 100:** Provides state supplemental pay to public emergency medical services practitioners
- VI. Presentation – Teen pregnancy and infant and maternal mortality – Lyn Kieltyka – 25 min
- a. Lyn Kieltyka shared an overview of information about perinatal health in Louisiana reporting information on teen births, severe maternal morbidity, NTSV, infant mortality, NICU admissions, COVID and pregnancy.
- VII. Presentation – Congenital syphilis – Elizabeth Lindsay – 25 min
- a. Elizabeth Lindsay, STD/HIV Perinatal Surveillance Supervisor, presented updated information from the last 5 years regarding congenital syphilis. She presented overviews statewide and national data.
 - b. Elizabeth shared that prenatal care is key, and the lack of care is one of the biggest preventive ways to avoid transmission from mother to child.

- Utilizes CDC guidelines for various states of syphilis. Explained the treatment process and which medications are approved and not recommended.
- c. State at a National Level
 - Common missed opportunity was due to lack of primary care and prenatal testing-impact of covid-moms weren't entering prenatal care in a timely manner and correlated to an increase to CS deaths
- d. State at a LA level
 - Lack of access to specialized care and primary care-utilizing PHUs for care. Addressed maternity care deserts, lack of financial needs, and lack of care with little access.
 - Missed opportunities statewide is due to lack of follow up testing. When moms are testing negative, there is a discrepancy in retesting because providers do not want to retest.
 - Reviewed various perinatal prevention activities and where services are available at the current time.
- e. Follow Up:
 - Dr. Wise stated that MCOs could flag 3rd trimester care gaps that do not have tests. Would have to do them based on claims. They have a valued-based program where they reward physicians to test 3rd trimester CS tests. Dr. Wise stated that he can follow up on behalf of the MCOS to determine which tests are required for 3rd trimester testing.
 - Dr. Spedale requested STD/HIV to report to the commission on an annual basis.

VIII. Workgroups – 20 min

- a. Dr. Spedale stated that the current state of workgroups was paused and questioned the commission members how they would like to proceed with workgroups. The commission members suggested new workgroups:
 - **Mental health/opioids/substance use**
 - **Congenital Syphilis**
 - **Care Coordination**
 - Want to continue to raise awareness and work toward some sort of new efforts. May request to have MCOs come to present info to commission during a future meeting.
 - **Person power-address the lack of staff in hospitals and clinics**
 - **Healthworks commission working toward training a healthcare workforce**
- b. *Motion by Dr. Spedale to create four workgroups*
 - *Mental Health/opioid/substance use*
 - *Congenital syphilis*
 - *Care Coordination*
 - *Person Power*
- c. *Second: Dr. Nijjar & Aundria Cannon*
- d. *Opposition: none; passed unanimously to create the four workgroups as listed above*

IX. Membership – 5 min

- a. Family Practitioner is the current vacancy. Dr. Spedale requested follow up with the Office of Boards and Commissions regarding whether or not an application was submitted to fill the Family Practitioner vacancy.

X. Announcements – 10 min

XI. Adjourn

*Note: the order of the agenda may not be followed exactly, to accommodate presenter schedules

Persons who do not feel comfortable giving testimony in person may submit a prepared statement in accordance with Senate Rule 13.79, in lieu of appearing before the sub-committee. Statements may be emailed to PerinatalCommission@la.gov and must be received at least three hours prior to the meeting to be included in the record for this meeting.

Member	Position	Present or Absent
1. Scott Barrilleaux	Chair - Perinatologist	Absent
2. Steve Spedale	Neonatologist	Present
3. Rodney Wise	Private Health Care Administrator	Present
4. Amy Zapata	Public Health Care Administrator	Present
5. Leslie Lewis	Nutritionist	Present
6. Amar Nijjar	Neonatologist	Present
7. Courtney Campbell	Pediatrician	Present
8. Aundria Cannon	Female Health Nurse Practitioner	Present
9. Erica Moss	Neonatal Nurse	Present
10. Joey Biggio	Perinatologist	Present
11. Sen. Regina Barrow	Senator	Absent
12. Rep. Rhonda Butler	Representative	Absent
13. Emily Stevens	Social Worker	Absent
14. Marshall St. Amant	Perinatologist	Absent
15. Karli Boggs	Family Planning Representative	Present
16. Vacant	Family Practitioner	Absent