



State of Louisiana

Louisiana Department of Health
Office of Public Health

LOUISIANA COMMISSION ON PERINATAL CARE AND PREVENTION OF INFANT MORTALITY

November 16, 2023

1:00pm-3:00pm

Location:

Louisiana State Capitol
900 N Third Street
Baton Rouge, LA
Governor's Press Room

Meeting link for members of the public

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88683196842?pwd=TI1SC04KRB5IhKgg1SQNzWnW3hPFqa.1>

Phone #: 602-333-0032

Conference Code: 453592

Minutes

- I. Roll Call and Introductions
 - a. Meeting called to order by Dr. Scott Barrilleaux, Chair, at 1:08 pm.
 - b. **Members Present:** Dr. Scott Barrilleaux, Dr. Steve Spedale, Erika Moss, Dr. Courtney Campbell.
 - c. **Members Absent:** Senator Regina Barrow, Dr. Joseph Biggio, Dr. Karli Boggs (virtual), Representative Rhonda Butler, Aundria Cannon (virtual), Leslie Lewis (virtual), Dr. Amarjit Nijjar, Dr. Marshall St. Amant (virtual), Emily Stevens, Amy Zapata (virtual), Dr. Rodney Wise (virtual), Dr. Vincent Shaw
 - d. **Guests:** Dr. Vincent Culotta, Dr. Susan Allen, Berkley Durbin, Robin Gruenfeld (virtual)
 - e. **Support staff:** Shane Bates, Ayesha Umrigar, Yoruba Baltrip-Coleman
- II. Approval of Minutes – Chair/Presiding Officer
 - a. March 16, 2023
 - b. May 18, 2023
 - c. July 20, 2023
 - d. September 23, 2023

A quorum was not present and no meeting minutes were approved.
- III. March of Dimes Presentation on 2023 Louisiana Maternity Care Desert Report – Ms. Robin Gruenfeld.

Robin Gruenfeld, Maternal and Child Health Collective Impact Director for March of Dimes (New Orleans) joined virtually to present and share the 2023 Louisiana Maternity Care Desert Report

 - a. In the report, a maternity care desert was defined as an area with no birthing hospital within a 30-minute drive from home. This affects 12.1% of birthing persons in Louisiana.
 - b. The report included both national maternity care desert data and a map of Louisiana maternity care deserts. The map illustrated the distance that mothers travel for care in Louisiana, highlighting that nearly 40% of rural women in Louisiana live at least 30 minutes away from a birthing hospital.

- c. Further, the report identified that a majority of Louisiana's parishes (75%) are within the high vulnerability index. These social vulnerable factors result in 75 % of Louisiana's birthing persons to be at risk for adverse events. Also, during this part of the presentation, Ms. Gruenfeld displayed a graphic to describe the correlation between preterm birth and maternal health conditions, access to telehealth, broadband access, and transportation issues.
- IV. Physician Demographics in Louisiana – Dr. Vincent Culotta
Vincent Culotta, Jr. MD, Executive Director, and Susie Allen, PH, Director of Research and Education with the Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners (LSBME) joined in-person to present and share findings on the current data and trends related to physician demographics in Louisiana.
- a. LSBME recently updated its Obstetrics and Gynecology (OBGYN)/Pediatrics/Family Medicine-centered database, separating out the presence/location of physicians according to parish and by Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) administrative regions.
 - i. Dr. Culotta provided that the data does not tell us whether a physician and/or clinician is actively practicing and seeing patients. He also noted that OBGYNs prefer to practice near hospitals. Dr. Barilleaux reiterated that doctors tend to be based close to hospitals and that is where their offices are located.
 - ii. Data showed higher concentrations of physicians (per ten-thousand physicians) around hospitals. Dr. Boggs posed the question of whether physician concentration rates were with individuals or clinics and Dr. Culotta responded that the concentration was the number of clinics. Dr. Spedale questioned if physicians working at a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) would be recorded and Dr. Van noted that it is expected for patients to come to the office to be seen but acknowledged the need for better solutions for in-person, in-office patient visits.
 - b. In response to a question from the Zoom chat, Dr. Allen confirmed that LSBME retrieves data from LDH Medicaid databases and from data/information related to births provided by Louisiana-licensed physicians. Births outside of Louisiana, including bordering states or areas nearby, are not tracked.
 - c. Dr. Culotta recommended that an innovation to improve data collection, accessibility and tracking could be patients' maintaining their medical records via the Louisiana Wallet application.
- V. SCR 20 – Nurse Task Force Update (Recommendations regarding nursing involvement to improve maternal outcomes and preterm births) – Dr. Veronica Gillispie-Bell
Dr. Gillispie-Bell, LDH Medical Director for the Louisiana Perinatal Quality Collaborative (LaPQC) and Pregnancy Associated Mortality Review (PAMR) provided an update on the Nursing Maternal Mortality and Preterm Birth Task Force (SCR 20 of the 2023 Regular Session) meeting held on November 8, 2023.
Dr. Gillispie-Bell noted that she presented data on Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System (PRAMS) and PAMR and information on maternity care deserts and provider workforce shortages to the task force. Further, she highlighted the task force's discussion on increased Medicaid provider reimbursements, improved coordination of Medicaid Managed Care Organizations (MCOs), and the challenges to addressing patient communication. It was also noted that Louisiana House of Representative Jason Hughes recommended that the task force briefly and concisely list its recommendations in the legislative report to be submitted. The task force's next meeting will be held in January 2024.
- VI. Legislative Updates
Dr. Ayesha Umrigar, Legislative Coordinator, Bureau of Family Health
- a. The Perinatal Commission Statute Modernization Proposal for 2024 Legislative Session was not accepted.
 - b. Regular session will be from March 3, 2024 to June 3, 2024.

- i. The session will be general in nature and any topic may be considered, except those related to taxes.

VII. Other Business

- a. **Workgroup Discussion.** Dr. Barrilleaux stated that Commission members would focus on workgroups in 2024. Dr. Karli Boggs requested for contact information to be included on the workgroup roster. In addition, Dr Barrilleaux invited members of the public to participate in one of the workgroups. He also noted that the workgroup members need to focus on the tasks and goals of the workgroup to maximize the workgroup meeting times.

Addressing Infant Mortality

- b. Dr. Barrilleaux requested for the members to recommend thoughts and ideas on how the Commission could better focus its work to address its charge of improving infant mortality to all birthing persons with an emphasis on pregnant birthing teenagers. Dr. Spedale noted that a strong infant mortality group presence exists within the Commission and suggested the topic be discussed at a meeting during Calendar Year 2024.

VIII. Public Comment

No public comments were made.

IX. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 2:20

Note: The order of the agenda may not be followed as listed in order to accommodate presenter schedules.

Presenters, members, and guests may submit requests for accessibility and accommodations prior to a scheduled meeting. Please submit a request to PerinatalCommission@la.gov at least 48 hours prior to the meeting with details of the required accommodations.

In lieu of verbal public comment, individuals may submit a prepared statement in accordance with Senate Rule 13.79. Statements should be emailed to Shane.Bates3@LA.GOV and must be received at least 24 hours prior to the meeting to be included in the record for the meeting.