

Meeting Name: Pennsylvania Maternal Health Collaborative

Date: March 7th, 2025

Time: 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM

Number of Attendees: 50

Next Meeting Date: June 6th, 2025

Meeting Notes

- **Welcome – Scott Allen (FMEC)**
 - Agenda Overview
 - Introduced leadership team & overall member (132 signed up)
 - Participants introduced themselves in chat
 - Collaborative intent – collaboration to present solutions, engage diverse workforce
 - Overall Goals:
 - Engage a diverse group of stakeholders particularly those who may remain unconnected to PDOH work in this area but who will find virtual participation and sharing of solutions
 - Share information on current activities to address maternal morbidity, health disparities, and SDOHs, including their success and potential
 - Develop a strategy for identifying ongoing racist practices within maternity care and ways to mitigate these practices
 - Identify promising and successful models, particularly those which have strong data or the potential to show impact, for spread and sustainability.
 - Unite individuals and institutions in advancing such successful efforts, through collaboration or replication, and through new funding.
 - Disseminate findings through scholarship
- **Maternal Health Success in Action – David Saunders (Office of Health Equity)**
 - Introduced speakers: Sara Goulet and Jenne Johns
- **Once Upon A Premie, Inc. - Jenne Johns, MPH (President)**
 - Vision – To drive equitable health outcomes for 1 million Black preemie families
 - Our Why – In the U.S. the preterm birth rate among Black women is 52% higher than the rate among all other women (March of Dimes, 2022). J. Johns had a terrible experience with her premature birth and wanted to give back to others going through the same thing.
 - Book – Once Upon a Premie
 - 3 pillars of work
 - Once Upon A Premie Academy – e-learning training program for perinatal and neonatal healthcare professionals
 - Made up of four 1-hour e-learning courses
 - Purpose is to raise awareness and offer real-time solutions for addressing health and racial equity

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- All courses include 2 faculty (healthcare professionals and family member with lived experience)
 - Impact: over 4,200 professionals trained, over 150 hospitals use services
 - Looking for one measure from hospitals (quality improvement, patient satisfaction, etc.)
 - Black Maternal Health & Neonatal Equity Policy Advocacy – Advocate for policy and legislation that supports Black maternal and infant health, along with Pennsylvania Momnibus
 - NICU Nest – Family empowerment work, partner with local organization to deliver care packages, book resources, and other services to help families.
- Upcoming Conference: Save the Date – November 16th – 17th, 2025
- Helpful Links
 - [OUAP Contact \(Email List\)](#)
 - [Training Courses Demo Request](#)
- **PRISM Doula/Lactation Support Program for State Corrections – Gerria Coffee (PA Doula Commission & Genesis Birth Services - Founder/CEO) - Unable to attend**
- **Interagency Group/Maternal Health Statewide Strategic Plan Update – Sara Goulet (PA Dept. Of Human Services)**
 - PA Data – pregnancy associated mortality rate was 97/100,000 live births for PA
 - Strategic Plan Overview - Four health agencies worked together to review data, conduct research, and seek collaborative involvement from people with lived experience, from all regions of the state, stakeholders, providers, and community-based organizations to conduct a situation analysis and set goals.
 - Equity is at the center for this plan
 - Began in May 2024
 - Vision – A Pennsylvania where every pregnant and birthing individual has easy access to high-quality perinatal, birth, and postpartum care that is person-centered, comprehensive equitable, and affordable that results in healthy outcomes.
 - Collaborators: PA Perinatal Quality Collaborative, 2021 MMRC, Philadelphia MMRC, National Governor's Association, The Black Maternal Health Caucus, and more.
 - Pillars of Action
 - Increase access to high quality care
 - Support behavioral health and substance abuse disorders
 - Address the social determinants of health
 - Improve rural health and maternal health deserts
 - Expand and diversify the maternal health workforce
 - Collecting lived experiences through research
 - Listening sessions (14 completed so far)
 - Key topics – barriers to accessing care (transportation and childcare), prenatal or basic healthcare are not kept up, there is a need for implicit bias training for providers, Black people are reluctant to access care due

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to racism and distrust of system, BH/SUD is an ongoing challenge and there is fear of stigma.

- Surveys (In English and Spanish)
 - Topics - reproductive care access, mental health/substance abuse barriers, socioeconomic stressors, etc.
- How You Can Help
 - Join a Priority Team – 25% with lived experience, stakeholders from the maternal health community, providers, hospitals, MCOs and commercial insurances, representatives from Commonwealth agencies, etc.
- Next Steps
 - Governor's Office review and approval -> Stakeholder feedback -> official plan announcement -> outreach to invite implementation team members -> get to work as a united front -> track/report/revise/continue
- **Overview – Dr. Sarah Ramirez**
 - Alignment of goals for maternal health across PA
 - Introduced group discussion
- **Group Discussion**
 - Dr. Sharee Livingston - DDI runs a program on community doula education practices, done through hybrid model. 3 groups - thinking about pregnancy, pregnant, or postpartum, but open to anyone. Topics of focus are on birth, lactation, postpartum, knowing/understanding your rights.
 - [DDI](#)
 - [Perinatal TIPS Program](#)
 - Sara Goulet – Allegheny Health runs the Alexis Joy Center for perinatal mental health. Mom/Baby focused program.,
 - [Alexis Joy Center](#)
 - There are few substance abuse clinics that allow mothers to bring their children
 - [Gaudenzia Health Services](#)
 - Shannon Hayward – Maternity Medical Homes in Scranton, collaboration with Nurse-Family Partnership, WIC, behavioral health, etc.
 - Amy Martin – similar model (social services net) in place in Delaware County
 - Dr. Mary Kelleher – Hello Baby in Allegheny County (support for mental health, SUD treatment, etc.)
 - [Hello Baby Program](#)
 - Mario DeMarco – PROUD Program (mental health and SUD clinic, refers patients from all OB practices)
 - Tamika Allen-Kuhn – BirthRoot Community Doula offers mothers in Erie County with in-home postpartum care
 - Rachel Mark – Medical Legal Partnerships in Philadelphia
 - Fair Project/ HELP MLP Philadelphia
 - Other Links

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- [Healthy Moms - The Wright Center](#)
- [MAYA Organization \(Counseling services\)](#)
- **Upcoming Events – Tensae Gertz, MPH (Office of Health Equity)**
 - PA Health Equity Conference – May 1st, 2025
 - Virtual & Free
 - Registration - [2025 Pennsylvania Health Equity Conference](#)
Call For Speakers - [2025 Virtual Health Equity Conference: Thursday May 1, 2025](#)
 - Once Upon a Premie –November 16th – 17th, 2025
 - PA Statewide Maternal Health Summit (PA Latino Connection)
 - Info coming soon
 - PA PQC Annual Conference – May 21st, 2025
 - In Altoona, PA & Free
 - [Pennsylvania Perinatal Quality Collaborative - Register](#)
 - Tufts University Black Maternal Health Conference – April 4th – 5th, 2025
 - [Black Maternal Health Conference | Center for Black Maternal Health and Reproductive Justice](#)
- **Next Steps – Opportunities for Communication and Collaboration**