

## **Meeting Minutes: Commission on Maternal and Infant Health**

**Date:** January 17, 2025

**Time:** 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM

**Location:** Room 125, Georgia Capitol Building, Atlanta, GA

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### **1. Welcome and Introductions**

**Chair:** Dr. Champa Woodham

- Dr. Woodham welcomed attendees, outlined the meeting objectives, and facilitated introductions.

**Attendees:**

Marlo Vernon, Keisha Callins, Shae Evans, Shannon Mayfield, Representative Clark, Tim Denning, Senator Jackson, Representative Rice, Representative Bennett, Champa Woodham, Kimberly Ross

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### **2. Overview of Commission's Mandate and Scope**

- Dr. Woodham provided an overview of the Commission's mission, focusing on maternal and infant health improvement through legislative and policy recommendations.
  - Members reviewed the commission's duties. Time was allowed for clarifying questions and there were none
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### **3. Maternal and Infant Health Issues and Priorities**

Commission members were given time to bring forward topics that were important to them, and that they thought the Commission should consider addressing over the next 18 months. Key topics discussed:

#### **1. Provider Shortages and Workforce Challenges**

- Retention of OB/GYNs and addressing the exodus of providers/ providers moving to strictly GYN.
- Unlicensed doulas/midwives contributing to misinformation and patient fears.
- Certification and oversight for birth centers and providers.
- Staffing for neonatal transport and NICU positions like RTs, IBCLCS, etc

#### **2. Maternal and Infant Care Access**

- Expansion of provider networks, including perinatal crisis helplines and mental health services.

- Comprehensive care for mothers and infants, including equity in care for incarcerated mothers and other special populations.
- Increased reimbursement for Special Instructors and Service Coordinators in Babies Can't Wait
- Access to contraception and education for community

### **3. Technology, Innovation, and Education**

- Integration of technology (e.g., apps for prenatal/postnatal tracking) to get evidence-based, trusted educational information to mothers
- Programs like Liberty Regional's "Moms Hearts Matter" and Augusta University, Medical College of Georgia's, "vidaRPM" that monitor maternal health/blood pressure remotely and link mom to care if there is red flag
- Ensure that information extends through baby's first year and includes developmental milestones

### **4. Safe Sleep and Breastfeeding Initiatives**

- Education on breastfeeding benefits and safe sleep practices.
- Access to donor breast milk for at-risk infants, exploring updating the human milk billing rules to make it easier for facilities to bill for the use of human milk, and reducing stigma for formula

### **5. Healthcare Infrastructure and Support**

- Critical access hospitals' need for supplies and materials (e.g., Jada devices).
- Telehealth for rural areas and addressing gaps in auxiliary services (OT, PT, Speech).

### **6. Policy and Legislative Suggestions**

- Review levels of care and consider ways to get more centers to go through the Levels of Care verification process (Make it mandatory? Attach to ability to advertise?)
- Addressing liability and medical malpractice concerns.

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## **4. Setting Priorities for the Year**

- Brainstorming identified key focus areas:
  1. Safe sleep and breastfeeding education initiatives.
  2. Levels of care verification for hospitals—increasing hospital participation
  3. Ensuring access to maternal and infant healthcare resources, including apps and crisis lines.

4. Workforce development and retention strategies.
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## 5. Planning Future Meetings

- **Frequency and Format:** Members proposed meeting virtually to ease logistics.
  - **Invited speakers:** Who does the commission need to hear from? Is there data that should be presented to help set priorities? Are there programs (PEACE for Moms, Moms Heart Matters for example) that the commission wants to learn more out?
  - **Next Meeting:** February 7, 2025, at 5:00 PM (via Teams).
  - **Assignments:**
    - Review minutes and come with 3 top priorities for the Commission to focus on for the next year
    - Come with ideas on any groups to invite to present information, programs, data, etc
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## 6. Closing Remarks and Next Steps

- Dr. Woodham summarized key decisions and next steps, emphasizing the need to finalize top priorities for the year.
  - Members were tasked with reviewing minutes and providing feedback on focus areas.
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**Adjournment:** The meeting concluded at 3:00 PM.