



# Commission on Maternal and Infant Health

June 30, 2025 2:00pm-3:30pm Virtual via Microsoft Teams

## **Notes**

Present: Marlo Vernon, Keisha Callins, Shae Evans, Champa Woodham, Monica Newton, Carmen Rice, Kim Jackson, Kimberly Ross, Tim Denning

### **Agenda Overview:**

- Welcome & Introductions
- April Meeting Minutes Review
- Presentations & Discussions:
  - PEACE for Moms: Georgia's Perinatal Mental Health Access Program
  - Georgia Perinatal Quality Collaborative (GaPQC)
  - Breastfeeding & Human Milk Use in Georgia
- Closing Remarks & Next Steps

### **Presentations:**

#### **1. PEACE for Moms: Georgia's Perinatal Mental Health Access Program**

- Presented by Dr. Toby Goldsmith (Emory University School of Medicine)
- Program has provided 700+ provider consults; providers often become repeat users once familiar.
- Support for dads/partners available via PEACE for Moms and PSI Georgia Chapter.
- Link to recorded session on paternal health:  
[Maternal Health Symposium Recording](#)
- Need for greater awareness of available mental health support for dads and care partners.
- Programs with proven impact through repeat provider engagement.

#### **2. Georgia Perinatal Quality Collaborative (GaPQC)**

- Presented by Laura Layne (DPH)
- Current focus: 100% hospital participation via perinatal liaisons and tailored technical assistance.
- Resource Needs:
  - Additional funding for rural hospitals (~\$150K per hospital) to hire dedicated staff.
  - Mentorship programs between similar hospitals.
  - Improved informatics integration to ease data collection (leveraging EPIC builds).

#### **3. Breastfeeding and Use of Human Milk in Georgia**

- Presented by Claire Eden (Georgia Chapter, AAP)
- Shared Resources:
  - [GaEPIC.org](#)
  - [G-SPAN.org](#)

- [Zipmilk.org](https://www.zipmilk.org)
- [GeorgiaPQC.org](https://www.GeorgiaPQC.org)
- Social: @gabfpeds

### **Challenges Identified:**

- Limited NICU access to donor milk during non-business hours.
- Confusion between milk banks (processing centers) and hospital-based NICU milk rooms.
- Complex Medicaid reimbursement policies:
  - Difficult billing processes due to per-ounce payment structure unsuitable for NICU usage.
  - Current DCH language around reimbursement is a barrier.
- Concerns about potential risks to MPINC funding, in light of recent PRAMS halt.
- Opportunities for improved Medicaid coverage of breast pumps.
- Reimbursement policies limit hospital access to donor milk.
- Legislative opportunity for improved Medicaid coverage of pumps.
- Need for process improvements and policy clarity around donor milk use.

### **Example Reports for Recommendations Report Development:**

- [Georgia House HR 589 Final Report on Maternal Mortality \(2019\)](#)
- [2025 State of the State for Maternal & Infant Health in Georgia Report](#)
- [Maternal Mortality 2019-2021 Case Review \(Georgia DPH\)](#)
- [March of Dimes Georgia Report Card](#)

### **Next Steps & Action Items:**

- Kimberly to send a poll to determine dates for August meeting.