

**Texas Maternal Mortality and Morbidity Review Committee
Meeting Minutes
Friday, June 4, 2021
9:00 a.m.**

Due to COVID-19 pandemic, this meeting was conducted virtually using Microsoft Teams only. There was not a physical location for this meeting.

Table 1: Texas Maternal Mortality & Morbidity Review Committee attendance Friday, March 5, 2021 meeting.

MEMBER NAME	IN ATTENDANCE
Ms. Nancy Sheppard- Alderman	Yes
Dr. Eumenia Castro	No
Dr. Meitra Doty	Yes
Dr. Kelly Fegan-Bohm	Yes
Dr. Pamala Gessling	Yes
Dr. Manda Hall	Yes
Dr. Lisa Hollier	Yes
Dr. James Maher	No
Dr. K. Kimberley Molina	No
Dr. Sherri Onyiego	Yes
Dr. Carla Ortique	Yes
Dr. Lavannya Pandit	Yes
Dr. Amy Raines-Milenkov	Yes
Dr. Christina Murphey	Yes
Dr. Patrick Ramsey	Yes
Ms. Nancy Jo Reedy	Yes
VACANT	

Agenda Item 1 and 2: Call to Order, Welcome, Introductions and Determination of Quorum

Dr. Lisa Hollier, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. as a Microsoft Teams Live Event through the Microsoft Teams Virtual Platform. Dr. Hollier turned the floor over to Ms. Sallie Allen, HHSC, Advisory Committee Coordination Office. Ms. Allen read logistical announcements, called roll, and asked the members to provide a brief introduction, providing their name, profession/organization and location, and determined a quorum was present. Dr. Hollier, Chair, paused for a moment of silence for Texas families forever impacted by the loss of a mother. She expressed gratitude to all of the members of the committee and the teams at the DSHS and all of the abstracters who support the work of the committee and everyone’s dedication to the work of the review committee, in their efforts to reduce maternal mortality and morbidity.

Dr. Hollier recognized the presence of CDC subject matter expert partners from the Enhancing Reviews and Surveillance to Eliminate Maternal Mortality (ERASE MM) grant program, Ms. Julie Zaharatos and Ms. Brittany Dunigan-Willis. The support of the program has allowed the committee to move rapidly forward to begin the review of maternal deaths occurring in 2019, which enhances the timeliness of our findings and our recommendations.

Agenda Item 3: Approval of March 5, 2021 Meeting Minutes

Ms. Allen noted members received a copy of the March 5, 2021 meeting minutes in their electronic packet and she requested a motion.

MOTION:

Dr. Patrick Ramsey made the motion to approve the March 5, 2021 meeting minutes as presented. Dr. Carla Ortique seconded the motion. Ms. Allen conducted a roll call vote, and the motion passed unanimously with twelve approves, no disapproves, and no abstentions.

Agenda Item 4: Subcommittee on Maternal Health Disparities Update

Dr. Hollier introduced and turned the floor over to Dr. Carla Ortique to provide the subcommittee update.

Highlights included:

- The Subcommittee met on May 14, 2021 and received an update on the CDC sponsored MMRIA User Meeting.
 - A plenary session on structural racism analysis and equity for maternal mortality review committees was convened with Julie Zaharatos and Dr. Rachel Hardeman.
 - Received presentations on recognition and response to obstetric emergencies by non-obstetric responders.
 - Dr. Janelle Palacios, Certified Nurse Midwife and researcher on Native American maternal health presented on storytelling.
 - The Utah Tool assists in determining pregnancy-relatedness of suicide and unintentional overdose deaths. The Subcommittee is exploring implementing the tool within the Review Committee.
- Dr. Raines-Milenkov is working with Dr. Hardeman to develop a webinar to allow each member of the MMMRC to undergo health equity training.
- Dr. Raines-Milenkov will also contact Dr. Palacios and arrange for her to present to the committee at the September or December meeting.
- Discussed the Texas Discrimination Assessment and Social Determinants of Health (DASH) Facilitated Discussion Tool, that was developed by the Subcommittee and has been refined through use by the MMMRC. The Institutional Review Board (IRB) process for the DSHS agency has been completed. The enrollment/recruitment process for the DASH Tool Pilot Study should begin within the next few weeks.

Data analysis opportunities are being discussed.

Agenda Item 5: Texas Maternal Mortality and Morbidity Review Committee Operational Updates

Dr. Hollier introduced and turned the floor over to Mr. Jeremy Triplett, DSHS, Maternal and Child Health Section Director & Ms. Julie Stagg MSN, RN, IBCLC, RLC, DSHS, Healthy Texas Mothers and Babies Branch Manager, to provide the updates.

Jeremy Triplett provided the following highlights:

- The application deadline for the open vacancies for the MMMRC including a physician specializing in obstetrics and maternal fetal medicine, medical examiner, community advocate, certified nurse midwife and registered nurse closed in March. We are waiting approval of the appointments by Dr. Hellerstedt, DSHS Commissioner and we hope to announce those members at the September meeting.
- The team participated in the annual MMRIA User Meeting to network with other state maternal mortality review committees to exchange best practices for maternal mortality review.
- During the course of the 87th legislative session, DSHS tracked approximately 700 bills and the Maternal and Child Health Section tracked 30 bills.
- Following are a few notable bills that pertain to Women's Health that the Review Committee might be interested in:
 - House Bill 1164 relates to patient safety practices regarding placenta accreta spectrum disorder.
 - House Bill 1960 relates to a database of information about women with uterine fibroids, uterine fibroid education, and research program.
 - House Bill 133 relates to the provision of certain benefits under Medicaid and the Healthy Texas Women program.
- Today we have 12 cases prepared to review in the Closed session.
- The MCH epidemiology team has begun to link, identify cases, and request records for cases in the 2020 cohort.
- Gloria Mutombo, our lead epidemiologist left this past spring, and we were very happy to promote Aliyah Abdul-Wakil into the role.

Julie Stagg provided the following highlights:

- The TexasAIM Initiative is underway with the TexasAIM Severe Hypertension and Pregnancy Initiative to support hospitals across the state to implement processing quality improvement efforts to make healthcare safer for women experiencing severe hypertension and pregnancy
 - Currently, 209 hospitals have signed on to participate in the TexasAIM Severe Hypertension and Pregnancy Initiative, including 178 hospitals engaging in the Learning Collaborative.
 - Due to the large volume of hospitals, the learning opportunities were divided into five geographic cohorts. Learning Session 1 was provided to those cohorts throughout April and May in a virtual learning environment.
 - The interactive event included collaboration and shared learning between participating hospital teams and time for hospital teams to develop plans for implementation of their change ideas as well as didactic learning with our TexasAIM faculty.

- Plans are underway to bring a virtual TexasAIM patient simulation train-the-trainer course to hospitals across the state.
- TexasAIM is in the process of providing birth simulators to all Texas hospitals with obstetric services.
- The Maternal Health and Safety Campaign has multiple events that will be happening in the summer months.
 - Plans are underway for a summer seminar maternal health series to provide virtual education events which are modeled after the Surgeon General's Call to Action to improve maternal health.
 - Kick-off of the DSHS Grand Rounds Series on maternal mental health starts next week. The series launches next Wednesday June 9th and features Dr. Meitra Doty presenting on screening and early detection psychiatric disorders during pregnancy and postpartum. The Grand Rounds series are recorded and can be posted to the DSHS webpage for later viewing.
 - Last week kicked off a new contract for the Maternal Health and Safety Awareness Education and Communication Campaign. Future plans are to develop and launch a comprehensive communication strategy to increase awareness about maternal health and safety.

Agenda Item 6: Future Agenda Items

Dr. Hollier opened discussion for new business and potential agenda items for the June 4, 2021 meeting.

Members discussed potential items for next meeting:

- Presentation by Dr. Janelle Palacios on Health Equity and the impact of health care systems on indigenous people in our country.
- Presentation or a group discussion on mental health services available throughout the state, especially in the rural communities.
- Develop a directory or roster of medical referral resources that could be dispersed to medical providers.

Agenda Item 7: Public Comment

No written public comment was received.

Agenda Item 8: Executive Session

Dr. Hollier read the legislation allowing the Review Committee to move into a closed executive session at 9:47 a.m. Ms. Allen announced to members of the public that this concluded the open meeting for the morning and the public was informed that the review committee would return later in the afternoon to open the closed session and then adjourn.

Agenda Item 9: Open Session & Adjournment

Dr. Hollier opened the MMMRC meeting at 3:21 pm and hearing no new business, adjourned at 3:21 pm.

Below is the link to the archived video of the June 4, 2021 Texas Maternal Mortality and Morbidity Review Committee (MMMRC) that will be available for viewing approx. two years from date meeting was posted on website and based on the DSHS records retention schedule.

<https://texashsc.swagit.com/play/06042021-643>