

**Maternal Mortality Review Committee (MMRC)****Friday, January 25, 2025 1:00-4:00****Oklahoma State Department of Health****123 Robert S. Kerr, 28<sup>th</sup> Floor, Room 1****Oklahoma City, OK 73102**

**Open Meeting Act:** Announcement of the meeting was filed with the Office of the Secretary of State on Thursday, November 14, 2024 at 10:26 AM for the in-person meeting. The final agenda was shared via email January 14, 2025 at 4:38 PM and posted at the OSDH Central Office at 9:08 AM on January 22, 2025.

**Call to Order, Roll Call, and Determination of Quorum:** Dr. Chad Smith, Chair, called the meeting of the Maternal Mortality Review Committee (MMRC) to order at 1:13 PM.

A quorum was determined with the presence of:

Name	Entity Representation	Name	Entity Representation
Barbara O'Brien	Director, Office of Perinatal Quality Improvement	Dr. William Po (arrived at 1:37 PM)	Oklahoma State Medical Association
Dr. Angela Hawkins	Chair, Oklahoma Chapter of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists	Lori Essary	Director, Family Support and Prevention Services, Oklahoma State Department of Health
Dr. Chad Smith	Medical Director, Oklahoma Perinatal and Quality Improvement Collaborative	Jill Nobles-Botkin	Administrative Program Manager, Perinatal and Reproductive Health, Oklahoma State Department of Health
Dr. David Gahn	Southern Plain Tribal Health Board	Regina Kizer	President, OK Chapter of the American College of Nurse Midwives
Dr. John Stanley	The Perinatal Center-Maternal Fetal Medicine Representative	Kristy Wentz, designee for Evelyn Radichel	Association of Women's Health, Obstetric, and Neonatal Nurses
Omare Jimmerson	Community Representative		

**Committee Members/Designees Absent:** None

**OSDH Staff Present:** Three case abstractors: Tony Fleshman, Nikki Garrod and Amy Foster, Jenna Bellantoni, Epidemiologist, Assessment, Maternal and Child Health Service, Binitha Kunnel, Administrative Program Manager, FSPS Assessment, Maternal and Family Support and Prevention Service, Rachel Klein, Office of Communications, Erika Rankin-Riley, Office of Communications and Dawn Butler, administrative support, Family Support and Prevention Service.

**Public Comment:** None

**Vote to accept the October 25, 2024 meeting minutes as presented:** Barbara O'Brien made a motion to accept the October 25, 2024 meeting minutes as presented with Kristy Wentz seconding the motion. Members voted accordingly.

Name	Yes	No	Abstain	Name	Yes	No	Abstain
Barbara O'Brien	✓			Kristy Wentz	✓		
Lorri Essary			✓	Regina Kizer	✓		
Dave Gahn	✓			Jill Nobles-Botkin	✓		
Omare Jimmerson	✓			Chad Smith	✓		
Angela Hawkins	✓			John Stanley	✓		
William Po							

Motion Passed

**Discussion and follow-up on previous recommendations:** Dr. Smith began by sharing some information regarding some bills they will be watching in the upcoming legislative session. He stated that there are approximately 2,500 bills that have been submitted for this session with the Oklahoma Hospital Association watching between 68-70 of them. One of the bills that will impact maternity health care in Oklahoma that is being closely watched is HB 1812. This bill will regulate what supervision by a doctor will look like regarding any APRNs he oversees as well as any compensation paid. House bill 2915 is another bill that specifically affects the MMRC. This bill sets rules that the Chair and Vice Chair positions on an MMRC must be elected every two years. It also discusses establishing subcommittees which can help investigate cases that may require more expertise in a manner of death. There are also several bills regarding vaccines, advanced Medicaid, 340B pricing and TORT reform.

Dr. Smith also informed the committee that Mercy is aggressively working to create a Maternal Mental Health Program. This program will employ a psychiatrist who is passionate about women's mental health and would be a candidate to help create the subcommittee to assist in maternal deaths that are associated with mental health.

**Communications Overview:** Ms. Rankin-Riley spoke to the group regarding things to keep in mind when being requested to interview for the media. She stated that the first thing is to not panic or get scared remembering to ask their name, entity they are working for and what the angle of the story is. She suggested that you should let the Office of Communications or Lorri Essary know as soon as you have been approached about an interview. She stated that if you are not comfortable doing an in-person interview, a written interview can be requested, and you can ask for questions in advance of the interview. Next, Ms. Rankin-Riley said to be sure to keep your answers very broad and not give any answers that can be traced back to any patient and reminding everyone to keep your replies at a third grade level.

**Moment of silence:** Dr. Smith asked the members to observe a moment of silence in remembrance of the women who lost their lives, and the families left behind.

**Enter into Executive Session:** Omare Jimmerson made a motion to enter into Executive Session with Kristy Wente seconding. Members voted accordingly.

Name	Yes	No	Abstain	Name	Yes	No	Abstain
Barbara O'Brien	✓			Kristy Wente	✓		
Lorri Essary (left at 3:30)				Regina Kizer	✓		
Dave Gahn	✓			Jill Nobles-Botkin	✓		
Omare Jimmerson	✓			Chad Smith	✓		
Angela Hawkins	✓			John Stanley	✓		
William Po	✓						

Motion Passed

**Enter into Open Session:** Omare Jimmerson made a motion to enter into open session with Jill Nobles-Botkin seconding the motion. Members voted accordingly.

Name	Yes	No	Abstain	Name	Yes	No	Abstain
Barbara O'Brien	✓			Kristy Wente	✓		
Lorri Essary	✓			Regina Kizer	✓		
Dave Gahn	✓			Jill Nobles-Botkin	✓		
Omare Jimmerson	✓			Chad Smith	✓		
Angela Hawkins	✓			John Stanley	✓		
William Po	✓						

Motion Passed

**Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Matters Discussed in Executive Session:** During the Executive Session discussions were held regarding an advisory committee being formed through the Oklahoma Perinatal Quality Improvement Collaborative to assist the MMRC.

**Adjourn:** Omare Jimmerson made a motion to adjourn the meeting with Kristy Wente seconding.

Meeting adjourned at 4:06 PM.

Next Meeting:  
April 25, 2025  
123 Robert S. Kerr  
Oklahoma City, OK 73102