

**Maternal Mortality Review Committee (MMRC)****Friday, July 26, 2024 1:00-4:00****Oklahoma State Department of Health****123 Robert S. Kerr, 28<sup>th</sup> Floor, Room 5****Oklahoma City, OK 73102**

**Open Meeting Act:** Announcement of the meeting was filed with the Office of the Secretary of State on Wednesday, November 22, 2023 at 7:56 AM for the in-person meeting. The final agenda was shared via email July 12, 2024 at 4:18 PM and posted at the OSDH Central Office at 9:20 AM on July 23, 2024.

**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 1:32 PM.  
A quorum was determined with the presence of:

Name	Entity Representation	Name	Entity Representation
Barbara O'Brien	Director, Office of Perinatal Quality Improvement	Blaine Bolding Designee for Dr. Patrick McGough	Director, Oklahoma City County Health Department
Dr. Angela Hawkins	Chair, Oklahoma Chapter of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists	Susan Wegrynski Designee for Lori Essary	Director, Family Support and Prevention Services, Oklahoma State Department of Health
Dr. Toney Welborn Designee for Dr. Paula Root	Chief Medical Officer, Oklahoma Health Care Authority	Shannon Desherow Designee for Ricky Adams	Director, Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation
Dr. Chad Smith	Medical Director, Oklahoma Perinatal Quality Improvement Collaborative	Joyce Marshall	Director, Maternal and Child Health Service, Oklahoma State Department of Health
Dr. David Gahn Designee for Nick Barton	Executive Director, Southern Plain Tribal Health Board	Dr. Gitanjali Pai	Chief Medical Officer, Oklahoma State Department of Health
Larry Terry, Paramedic	SSM Health St. Anthony's Midwest EMS	Kristy Wentz Designee for Evelyn Radichel	Oklahoma Chapter, Association of Women's Health, Obstetric, and Neonatal Nurses
Kayla Robison Designee for Dr. Bruce Dart	Executive Director, Tulsa Health Department	Regina Kizer	President, OK Chapter of the American College of Nurse Midwives
Dr. John Stanley	The Perinatal Center-Maternal Fetal Medicine Representative		

**Committee Members/Designees Absent:** Oklahoma Osteopathic Association, Oklahoma State Medical Association, Office of Chief Medical Examiner, Oklahoma Chapter National Association of Social Workers, Current law enforcement officer, Oklahoma State Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services

**OSDH Staff Present:** Three case abstractors: Tony Fleshman, Nikki Garrod and Amy Foster, Jenna Bellantoni, Epidemiologist, Assessment, Maternal and Child Health Service, Jill Nobles-Botkin, Administrative Program Manager, Perinatal and Reproductive Health, Maternal and Child Health Service and Dawn Butler, administrative support, Maternal & Child Health Service.

**Public Comment:** None

**Vote to accept the April 26, 2024 meeting minutes as presented:** Barbara O'Brien made a motion to approve the January 26, 2024 meeting minutes with Kristy Wentz seconding the motion. Members voted accordingly.

Name	Yes	No	Abstain	Name	Yes	No	Abstain
Barbara O'Brien	✓			Blaine Bolding	✓		

Dr. Angela Hawkins	✓			Susan Wegrynski			✓
Dr. Toney Welborn			✓	Shannon Desherow			✓
Dr. Chad Smith	✓			Joyce Marshall			✓
Dr. David Gahn	✓			Dr. Gitanjali Pai			✓
Larry Terry	✓			Kristy Wente	✓		
Kayla Robison			✓	Regina Kizer	✓		
Dr. John Stanley	✓						

Motion Passed

**Update on grant applications:** Joyce updated the group regarding two grants MCH is awaiting a decision on. The first grant is the Maternal Health Innovation grant. She explained that this grant is currently ending its five year cycle but have been approved for the next cycle of funding, however, this cycle will have half of the funding of the previous. Enhancing Reviews and Surveillance to Eliminate (ERASE) Maternal Mortality. This grant focuses on Maternal Mortality Review Committees throughout the nation. She commented that the possibility of receiving this grant is promising but final announcement has yet to be made.

Nikki further continued by stating that if the ERASE grant is received, two additional positions would become available. The hope is to hire an additional abstractor and a social worker to perform the informant interviews.

**Additional cases for review:** Nikki informed the group that there were additional cases from calendar year 2022 linked for review.

**Discussion regarding Government relations:** Dr. Smith began by stating that the latest legislative session ended much like the previous session where they thought items were progressing but then failed. He continues to stay in contact with both the House and Senate to try to promote the items being requested. He stated that these items will be requested once again in the next legislative session.

Dr. Hawkins next stated that overall, the latest session did have some positive effects regarding the MMRC. She informed the group that a lot of bills were killed that would have had negative effects on women's healthcare, the got expedited partner therapy legalized in Oklahoma, and some pros and cons regarding the MMRC bill. She also stated that the biggest win came when they realized legislators were reaching out and asking questions regarding various bills being proposed.

**Discussion and approval or denial of the Morbidity and Mortality Annual Report:** Jenna presented a brief presentation to the group outlining some of the topics included in the Morbidity and Mortality Annual Report. She began by showing the new items included in the report. She stated that an Executive Summary has been added which details an overview of the main points listed in the report. She mentioned that additional data has been added that breaks down maternal morbidity by age and compares with rates throughout the U.S. There is also a brief history or the MMRC, newly passed legislation, and timing and preventability by cause of death. A key successes section has also been included as well as a list of recommendations that were given during the reviews and steps that are being taken to follow up on those. Lastly, she stated a tribal addendum has been adding showing data from the tribes and incorporating it in with MMRC reviews.

Dr. Smith asked for a motion to approve or reject the Morbidity and Mortality Annual Report with Dr. Stanley making a motion to approve and Kayla Robison seconding. Members voted accordingly.

Name	Yes	No	Abstain	Name	Yes	No	Abstain
Barbara O'Brien	✓			Blaine Bolding	✓		
Dr. Angela Hawkins	✓			Susan Wegrynski	✓		
Dr. Toney Welborn	✓			Shannon Desherow	✓		

Dr. Chad Smith	✓			Joyce Marshall	✓		
Dr. David Gahn	✓			Dr. Gitanjali Pai	✓		
Larry Terry	✓			Kristy Wente	✓		
Kayla Robison	✓			Regina Kizer	✓		
Dr. John Stanley	✓						

Motion Passed

**Discussion and follow up on previous recommendations:** Barbara updated the group on a few things they have done based on the recommendations presented at previous meetings. She stated that based on the recommendation regarding working with hospitals on treatment of pregnant women they have four different courses for emergency personnel regarding obstetrics and obstetric emergencies doing simulations. There were approximately 80 participants and there are plans for these simulations to continue next year.

She also stated that social media posts are being shared regarding vital signs and the importance of obtaining them prior to hospital discharge. And stressing the importance of investigating the cause of abnormal readings.

Jill also wanted to share some information regarding 211 and stated she would bring some printed information to the next meeting showing some of the services they provide.

**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 they left behind.

**Enter into Executive Session:** Joyce Marshall made a motion to enter into Executive Session with Regina Kizer seconding. Members voted accordingly.

Name	Yes	No	Abstain	Name	Yes	No	Abstain
Barbara O'Brien	✓			Blaine Bolding	✓		
Dr. Angela Hawkins	✓			Susan Wegrynski	✓		
Dr. Toney Welborn	✓			Shannon Desherow	✓		
Dr. Chad Smith	✓			Joyce Marshall	✓		
Dr. David Gahn	✓			Dr. Gitanjali Pai	✓		
Larry Terry	✓			Kristy Wente	✓		
Kayla Robison	✓			Regina Kizer	✓		
Dr. John Stanley	✓						

Motion Passed

**Enter into Open Session:** Barbara O'Brien made a motion to enter into open session with Kristy Wente seconding the motion. Members voted accordingly.

Name	Yes	No	Abstain	Name	Yes	No	Abstain
Barbara O'Brien	✓			Blaine Bolding	✓		
Dr. Angela Hawkins	✓			Susan Wegrynski	✓		
Dr. Toney Welborn	✓			Shannon Desherow	✓		
Dr. Chad Smith	✓			Joyce Marshall	✓		
Dr. David Gahn	✓			Dr. Gitanjali Pai	✓		
Larry Terry	✓			Kristy Wente	✓		
Kayla Robison	✓			Regina Kizer	✓		
Dr. John Stanley	✓						

Motion Passed

**Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Matters Discussed in Executive Session:** During the Executive Session the following recommendations were presented.

1. Providers educate on the importance of appropriate vaccinations during pregnancy.
2. Continue with public awareness campaigns by national, state, and local organizations on the importance of vaccinations during pregnancy.
3. Facilities should implement obstetric early warning score (EWS) systems to monitor vital signs and other clinical indicators, providing early detection of deteriorating conditions.

**Adjourn:** Regina Kizer made a motion to adjourn the meeting with Barbara O'Brien seconding.

Meeting adjourned at 4:07 PM.

Next Meeting:  
Friday, October 25, 2024  
123 Robert S. Kerr  
Oklahoma City, OK 73102