

**Texas Maternal Mortality and Morbidity Review Committee
Meeting Minutes
Friday, September 02, 2022
9:00 a.m.**

**Virtual: Teams Meeting Platform
Location: Texas Department of State Health Services
Moreton Building, Room M-100
1100 West 49th Street,
Austin, TX 78756**

Agenda Item 1: Call to Order, Welcome, Introductions, Roll Call

Dr. Carla Ortique, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Dr. Ortique announced this was the Texas Maternal Mortality and Morbidity Review Committee (MMMRC) meeting. The review of deaths that occurred during and up to 12 months after delivery determining pregnancy, relatedness, contributing factors, and developing actionable recommendations is incredibly challenging, yet the work done by this amazingly talented and dedicated multidisciplinary group of volunteer members, supported by University of North Texas, contracted Abstractors, facilitated by the Department of State Health Services team, is critical to eliminating preventable maternal deaths and improving health for all Texans. The death of a mother is a tragic loss with profound lasting impacts on family, community, and our state.

Dr. Ortique, Chair, stated the work done by the committee honors the lives that have been lost, and requested a moment of silence in respect and remembrance of those impacted by the loss of a mother.

Dr. Ortique welcomed the committee members, the staff, the members of the public who are in attendance. She announced that since the last public meeting many transitions had occurred. Dr. Lisa Hollier had accepted a new position as Medical Officer for the Center for Disease Control, the position precluded her to continue on the Texas MMMRC membership. Dr. Hellerstedt appointed a new Chair and Vice Chair for the committee, Dr. Carla Ortique will serve as Chair and Dr. Patrick Ramsey as vice-chair. The newest member, Dr. Catherine Eppes, who was also appointed by Dr. Hellerstedt to fill the vacancy in the position of physician specializing in maternal fetal medicine created by Dr. Hollier's departure.

Dr. Ortique announced the order of the posted agenda had been updated and listed the changes to the order.

Dr. Ortique turned the floor over to Ms. Tessa Buck-Ragland, HHSC, Advisory Committee Coordination Office. Ms. Buck-Ragland read logistical announcements, called roll, and asked the members to provide a brief introduction, providing their name, profession, organization, and location, and determined with 10 members present a quorum was reached.

Table 1: Texas Maternal Mortality & Morbidity Review Committee attendance Friday, September 02, 2022, meeting.

MEMBER NAME	IN ATTENDANCE
Dr. Eumenia Castro	No
Dr. Kendall Crowns	No
Dr. Meitra Doty	No
Dr. Catherine Eppes – Joined late	Yes
Dr. Kelly Fegan-Bohm	No
Dr. Manda Hall	Yes
Dr. James Hill	Yes
Dr. Sherri Onyiego	Yes
Dr. Carla Ortique, Chair	Yes
Dr. Lavannya Pandit	Yes
Ms. Nancy Puig	Yes
Dr. Amy Raines-Milenkov	Yes
Dr. Christina Murphey	No
Dr. Patrick Ramsey, Vice Chair	Yes
Dr. Robin Page	Yes
Ms. Nakeenya Wilson	Yes
VACANT	

Yes: Indicates attended the meeting

No: Indicates did not attend the meeting

Agenda Item 2: Consideration of June 03, 2022, draft Meeting Minutes

Ms. Buck-Ragland noted members received a copy of the June 03, 2022, meeting minutes in their electronic packet and she called for any edits or changes. Dr. Carla Ortique suggested an amendment on page 2, item 3, bullet number 2 for context requesting the addition to her report *"The May 24, 2022 mass shooting at Uvalde school is a tragic reminder of the prevalence of gun violence in our country. Unfortunately, gun violence impacts maternal health as per our 2020 report which found that violence contributed to 13% of pregnancy-related deaths and firearms were frequently involved."* With no other edits Ms. Buck-Ragland requested a motion to accept the June 03, 2022 minutes with amendment noted.

MOTION:

Dr. Patrick Ramsey made the motion to approve the June 03, 2022, meeting minutes with amendment as stated. Ms. Nakeenya Wilson seconded the motion. Ms. Buck-Ragland conducted a roll call vote, and the motion passed unanimously with ten approves, no disapproves, and no abstentions.

Agenda Item 4: Perinatal Psychiatric Access Network (PeriPAN)

Dr. Carla Ortique introduced Sarah Mallard Wakefield, MD.

Dr. Wakefield is a board-certified adult, child/adolescent, and forensic psychiatrist.

Highlights included:

- The mission is to advance mental health care quality and access for all Texas children and adolescents through inter-institutional collaboration, leveraging the

expertise of the state's health-related institutions of higher education, local and state government agencies, and local and state mental health organizations.

- There are five programs under the Texas Child Mental Health Care Consortium.
 - Child Psychiatry Access Network (CPAN)
 - Texas Child Health Access Through Telemedicine
 - Community Psychiatry Workforce Expansion
 - Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Fellowship
 - Children's Mental Health Research
- There are four pilot PeriPAN sites. Their sites are engaging clinics across their region.
- PeriPAN is a phone line service that allows enrolled clinicians who are supporting pregnant and postpartum women to collaborate with mental health professionals for resources.
- PeriPAN is a free service to use and the time the clinician when initiating the consultation is billable for reimbursement. There are no call limits.

Discussion:

- Information on PeriPAN is shared through communications strategies such as presentations to frontline clinicians, presentation on state level calls to different medical associations, and development at the local and regional level.
- Dr. Wakefield hopes to have data from PeriPAN available for the next legislative session.

Agenda Item 5: Subcommittee on Maternal Health Disparities Update

Dr. Carla Ortique provided the subcommittee update.

Highlights included:

- The Subcommittee met on July 8th via teams.
 - Topics discussed:
 - Development of a digital repository of recommendations
 - Standard training
 - What works for health tools
 - Plan to further evaluate how accountability factors into findings and recommendations
 - The Discrimination Assessment and Social Determinants of Health (DASH) Facilitated Discussion Tool

Agenda Item 6: Texas Maternal Mortality and Morbidity Review Committee Operational and Maternal Health and Safety Initiative Updates

Dr. Carla Ortique introduced Ms. Julie Stagg MSN, RN, DSHS, Healthy Texas Mothers and Babies (HTMB) Branch Manager, to provide updates.

Highlights included:

- Ms. Stagg gave a brief update on maternal health and safety initiatives
 - Work is underway to develop a suite of courses to train community health workers in high-risk maternal care coordination as part of the pilot project for the High-Risk Maternal Care Coordination Service Program.
 - Additionally, DSHS is working with experts in the field to provide technical assistance to the pilot site for coordinating a community health worker services program as part of a multidisciplinary care coordination approach.
 - The pilot site is in the process of hiring and onboarding community health workers to help carry out the program.
 - Finally, DSHS is continuing to develop Texas-specific content for the Hear Her Texas maternal safety campaign including videos of Texas severe maternal

morbidity survivors and resources for providers to talk with patients about urgent maternal warning signs.

- Operations update
 - DSHS has incorporated new maternal mortality, case identification and review processes to support comprehensive contemporary case review
 - Cases are identified and reviewed quickly using provisional vital statistics data. This data may not be complete, and the data is subject to change as information is collected and analyzed.
 - The MMMRC has reviewed 118 of the 141 provisionally identified pregnancy-associated cases from the cohort before the final 2019 fetal death file was available.
 - Eight cases have been newly identified from final linking efforts. These cases have been added to the 2019 operational cohort and are now being prepared for the MMMRC.
 - Through provisional data, 206 cases have been identified for 2020 case review.

Agenda Item 7: Updated Findings from the Completed 2013 Pregnancy-Associated Death Cohort

Dr. Carla Ortique introduced Michelle Cook, PhD, MPH, Director DSHS, Maternal & Child Health Epidemiology Unit, to provide updated findings.

Highlights included:

- Dr. Cook gave a presentation on the completed 2013 Pregnancy-Associated Death Cohort.
- The 2020 Joint Biennial Report, the MMMRC and DSHS published case review findings and MMMRC recommendations from a portion of the 2013 case cohort, the MMMRC reviewed 137 of the 175 pregnancy associated cases. The presentation described the final cohort specific pregnancy related death findings from the MMMRC completed 2013 Case Court review
- Summary
 - 40% of pregnancy-associated cases reviewed by the MMMRC were pregnancy related.
 - The total PRMR in Texas was 18.1 deaths per 100,000 live births.
 - Non-Hispanic Black women, women 40 years of age and older, and women with a high school education had higher PRMRs than their counterparts.
 - Embolism was the single leading underlying cause of death.
 - Combined, cardiovascular diseases accounted for 18.6% of deaths.
 - Obesity, mental health conditions, substance use disorder (SUD), and violence each contributed to pregnancy-related deaths.
 - Timing of death in relation to pregnancy varied by cause of death and maternal race or ethnicity.
 - Most pregnancy-related deaths were preventable.

Discussion:

- Members had questions about controlling for age and time of death by race/ethnicity when looking at the impact of education on maternal mortality.
- The Subcommittee on Maternal Health Disparities has requested data analysis from DSHS on specific data stratified by race and ethnicity.
- Dr. Cook indicated the data analyses could be completed but because of the small counts, several years of data will be needed to have a large enough sample.

Agenda Item 3: Recognition of Texas Maternal Mortality and Morbidity Review Committee Members

Dr. Carla Ortique introduced John Hellerstedt, MD, DSHS Commissioner. Dr. Hellerstedt recognized the service of:

- Nancy Alderman, MSW
- Lisa Hollier, MD, MPH

Agenda Item 8: Texas Maternal Mortality and Morbidity Review Committee and Department of State Health Services Joint Biennial Report, 2022, Findings and Recommendations

Dr. Ortique turned the floor over to Dr. Hellerstedt. Dr. Hellerstedt updated the members on the initial report 2022 findings and recommendations.

Highlights included:

- The publication of the report will be delayed until the entire 2019 cohort can be included in the report.
- Dr. Hellerstedt indicated that the recommendations in the previously published report in addition to a recommendation for more resources and more staff so the committee could conduct its work more efficiently and in a timelier fashion.

Discussion:

- DSHS' expectation is that the report will be released around the middle of the next calendar year. There are 23 cases that the committee has not yet reviewed that were identified through provisional data. DSHS is linking final data which may find additional cases so the number of cases that will need to be reviewed may increase.
- Disappointment was expressed for the report being delayed and that the report is not available for legislative session.

Agenda Item 9: Future Agenda Items

Dr. Ortique opened discussion for new business and potential agenda items for the next meeting scheduled for December 09, 2022. Dr. Amy Raines-Milenkov suggested best practices from other states that do updates outside of the legislative report. Hearing no further items, Dr. Ortique proceeded to the next agenda item.

Agenda Item 10: Public Comment

One written public comment was received and appeared in person to give his oral comment. Mr. Jarrod Watson, candidate for a Master of Science in Healthcare Leadership degree at Brown University and a clinical Doctor of Physical Therapist by profession, addressed the committee with the subject of a capstone project that helps increase the safe treatment and equitable healthcare for Women of Color in Texas.

Agenda Item 11: Executive Session

Dr. Ortique read the legislation allowing the Review Committee to move into a closed executive session. Ms. Buck-Ragland stated the time 11:22 am and 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 12: Open Session & Adjournment

Dr. Ortique opened the MMMRC meeting at 4:27 pm and hearing no new business, adjourned at 4:27 pm.

Below is the link to the archived video of the September 02, 2022, Texas Maternal Mortality and Morbidity Review Committee (MMMRC) that will be available for viewing approximately two years from date meeting was posted on website and based on the DSHS records retention schedule.

[Texas Maternal Mortality and Morbidity Review Committee \(MMMRC\)](#)