**The Ellen Story Commission on Postpartum Depression (PPD)**

**Wednesday, May 8th 2019, 5:30-7:30PM**

**Massachusetts State House, Room 222**

**Minutes**

**Commissioners Present:** Senator Joan Lovely (chair); Representative James O’Day (chair); Jamie Belsito; Anne Boffa; Rebecca Butler; Jessie Colbert; Margaret Hannah; Dr. Gordon Harper; Divya Kumar; Dr. Monica Le; Dr. Lisa Scarfo; Dr. Michael Yogman; Gail DeRiggi on behalf of Commissioner Thomas Weber; Rep Carole Fiola

**Commissioners Absent:** Kristin Alexander; Dr. Lee Cohen; Karen Crowley; Karin Downs; Rep. Kimberly Ferguson; Liz Murphy; Liz Friedman; Dr. Janice Goodman; Dr. Julie Johnston; Peggy Kaufman; Divya Kumar; Kerry LaBounty; Dr. Tiffany Moore Simas; Sen. Richard Ross; Dr. Alison Schonwald; Dr. Jayne Singer; Dr. Joshua Sparrow; Timoria McQueen Saba

**Commission staff present:** Cate McAnulty, aide to Representative O’Day; Johanna Wakelin, aide to Senator Lovely; Whitney Hill, aide to Representative O’Day

Members of the public and other state employees were also present.

**1. Welcome; approval of minutes**

Representative O’Day and Senator Lovely welcomed Commission members and guests and approved the minutes from the Commission’s March 13th meeting. Representative O’Day and Cate introduced Whitney Hill, who will be taking on the staff duties of the Commission following Cate’s departure on May 31st, 2019. Whitney has an MPH and previously interned in Senator Lovely’s office.

**2. Presentation from Dr. Cindy Liu**

Dr. Cindy Liu, Director of Developmental Risk and Cultural Disparities Program, BWH and founder of coordinated perinatal program between South Cove Community Health Center and Boston Chinatown Neighborhood Center, shared a presentation of her research on group perinatal supports and parent-child separation in the Chinese Immigrant community. A copy of the presentation was shared with Commissioners electronically.

**4. Perinatal Mental Health Awareness Day Prep**

1. Overview of event: Cate shared an overview of the event and speaking programs. Event details were shared with Commissioners electronically.
2. Legislative priorities: Commissioners shared feedback on draft advocacy one-pagers, including adding materials for H.1948/S.1332 An Act relative to out-of-hospital birth access and safety and H.910/ S.588 An Act relative to mental health parity implementation.

**3. Recap of House budget priorities:**

1. PPD Pilot Programs: Level funding was secured in the House Ways and Means budget.
2. DPH TA/project coordinator position: This ask was bundled with the funding for an outcome measures report. The House budget included $50,000 of the $300,000 Rep. O’Day proposed; total sum will be determined after Senate budget debate and conference committee.
3. Perinatal Mental Health outcome measures: See above
4. DPH Awareness Campaign funding: This funding was not successfully secured in the House budget. Future options include the Senate budget, future budgets, grant funding, and private donors.
5. MCPAP for Moms SUD expansion: Level funding was secured in the House Ways and Means budget.
6. Massachusetts Perinatal Quality Collaborative: This funding was not successfully secured in the House budget.

**5. Other announcements**

1. MCPAP for Moms is hiring; additional information shared with commissioners electronically
2. Jamie Belsito shared an update on federal funding for maternal mental health

**6. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned.