

**The Ellen Story Commission on Postpartum Depression (PPD)**  
**Wednesday, December 19<sup>th</sup> 2018, 5:30-7:30PM**  
**Massachusetts State House, Room 428**

**Minutes**

**Commissioners present:** Representative James O’Day (chair); Senator Joan Lovely (chair); Rep. Carole Fiola; Divya Kumar; Peggy Kaufman; Dr. Michael Yogman; Dr. Monica Le; Rebecca Butler; Jamie Belsito; Jessie Colbert; Karin Downs; Timoria McQueen Saba; Gail DeRiggi on behalf of Commissioner Thomas Weber; Kerry LaBounty;

**Commissioners absent:** Anne Boffa; Margaret Hannah; Dr. Lee Cohen; Kristin Alexander; Karen Crowley; Dr. Janice Goodman; Rep. Kimberly Ferguson; Dr. Joshua Sparrow; Dr. Tiffany Moore Simas; Sen. Richard Ross; Dr. Alison Schonwald; Dr. Gordon Harper; Dr. Jayne Singer; Dr. Lisa Scarfo; Liz Murphy; Liz Friedman

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

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 September 12<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**2. Preparation for next legislative session**

- a. Permanent PPD Commission legislation/funding update: Due to unavoidable constitutional issues with the PPD Commission collecting and spending money, we are laying aside the permanent PPD Commission legislation unless Commissioners have additional major changes they would like to see to the Commission. Since the Commission does not have an end date, there is no problem with the Commission continuing to meet for as long as it sees fit. Since the original purpose of the legislation was to collect funds for an awareness campaign as stipulated in the original language, we are now pursuing another funding opportunity by partnering with DPH as a fiscal sponsor.
- b. Postpartum Psychosis legislation overview: After working with several lawyers from Illinois’ bill, PSI of Massachusetts, and George Parnham, the lawyer who represented Andrea Yates, a draft was shared with commissioners for review and feedback. Commissioners discussed making important edits to the definition of postpartum psychosis, managing an awareness campaign to ensure appropriate information is given to the public, and the risk of perinatal mood disorder-related stigma associated with discussing postpartum psychosis. The importance of Massachusetts-specific incidence data was also noted. An electronic copy was also shared with Commissioners. The Commission is actively collecting feedback and suggested edits. The deadline for bill filing is January 18<sup>th</sup>, although late filing is also an option. All feedback should be directed to [cate.mcnulty@mahouse.gov](mailto:cate.mcnulty@mahouse.gov).

**3. Preparation for FY20 budget items**

- a. Massachusetts Perinatal Quality Collaborative: Dr. Audra Meadows and Dr. Ron Iverson shared the work of the Massachusetts Perinatal Quality Collaborative, a cooperative voluntary program involving Massachusetts maternity facilities and key perinatal stakeholders, designed to promote the sharing of best practices of care. She also discussed the Perinatal-Neonatal Quality Improvement Network of Massachusetts (PNQIN), a joint venture of the Massachusetts Perinatal Quality Collaborative (MPQC) and the Neonatal Quality Improvement Collaborative of Massachusetts (NeoQIC). PNQIN is partnering with the Alliance for Innovation on Maternal Health (AIM), a national collaborative of providers, public health, and advocacy organizations, to support implementation of evidence-based action steps (maternal safety bundles) on high risk maternal conditions in birthing facilities, clinics, and hospitals across the state to address the rise in maternal mortality and severe maternal morbidity rates across the US. These maternal safety bundles include Obstetric Care for Women with Opioid Use Disorder and Reduction of Peripartum Racial/Ethnic Disparities, among others. The collaborative, volunteer approach avoids legislative mandates and enables organizations to access valuable data and improve their care systems. The organization is looking for a line item in the budget to fund their ongoing projects, which currently operate entirely on project-based grants, throughout the year. The ask is \$500,000, and they have an additional budget prepared for a \$200,000 line item. *More information can be found at [www.pnqinma.org](http://www.pnqinma.org).*
  
- b. DPH Awareness Campaign funding : Beth Buxton shared with the Commission the preliminary discussions regarding partnering with DPH to fund and disseminate an awareness campaign. Similar DPH awareness campaigns, such as the safe sleep campaign, have cost \$400,000. This sum paid for the research, testing, creative design, and media buy. DPH contracted out for the campaign, and the majority of the money went to the media buy. The campaign was disseminated on the MBTA, Facebook, Youtube, and several parenting sites. DPH would need funding through the FY20 budget to begin work on such a campaign, although grant funding and potentially private funding are also options. Next steps for the Commission include discussing intended audience, messaging, and scope, and time for this discussion will be scheduled at the Commission's next meeting.
  
- c. PPD "Pilot" Programs: Beth shared with Commissioners the current status of the DPH-funded PPD screening pilot programs. Currently, three community health centers (Worcester, Holyoke, and Lynn) accept the funding. Due to the timeline of appropriations and contracting, each organization only receives the funding for 4 months of each year, which is why Southern Jamaica Plain has declined the funding in the past 2 years. Next steps for the Commission include discussing whether to modify the FY20 ask, including whether to add additional community health centers.

#### **4. Presentation from North Shore Mother Visiting Partnership**

- a. Kelley Hiland, RN BSN shared the work being done by the NSMVP. This group of public health nurses makes home visits to new moms and serves as a bridge to care. The home visit is a one-time 90 minute assessment that prioritizes meeting the mother where she is at and addressing her specific needs, ranging from breastfeeding to childcare. The visits also come with a baby box of helpful supplies, including hand knit hats and blankets made by local senior centers. They officially launched in January 2018, currently receive referrals from family members and providers, and recently started working with the city clerk to

access birth certificates. They are actively looking to connect to an ACO or a larger organization for billing, such as a hospital or a community health center. They additionally are looking for funding sources to expand their work. *More information can be found at [nsmvp.org](http://nsmvp.org).*

- b. Amanda Donovan, an intern with NSMVP, shared her work on intimate partner violence/domestic violence and its relation to perinatal mood and anxiety disorders. The presence of IPV increases the risk of PMAD threefold. When the situation allows, the NSMVP asks screening questions related to IPV and has worked with HAWC to train their nurses in addressing the issue.

## **5. Other announcements**

- a. **Perinatal Mental Health Awareness Day 2019 is Thurs, May 16th 2019 in the Great Hall.** Jessie Colbert suggested a theme around health disparities. Kitt Cox suggested involving diaper banks in the event. The Commission will continue the conversation in the new year.
- b. Honoring the life & passing of Marlies Zammuto - Kitt Cox shared a touching tribute to a dear friend and mentor.

## **7. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned.