

The Ellen Story Commission on Postpartum Depression (PPD)
Wednesday, January 24, 2018 5:30-7:30 PM
Room 428, State House, Boston

Minutes

Commissioners present: Representative James O’Day(Chair); Senator Joan Lovely (Chair); Dr. Barrie Baker; Rebecca Butler; Dr. Lee Cohen; Jessie Colbert; Mary Elizabeth Gamache; Margaret Hannah; Dr. Gordon Harper; Peggy Kaufman; Dr. Monica Le; Dr. Jayne Singer; Timoria McQueen Saba; Representative Carole Fiola

Commissioners absent: Kristin Alexander; Jamie Belsito; Karen Crowley; Karin Downs; Rep. Kimberly Ferguson; Elizabeth Fluet; Liz Friedman; Dr. Janice Goodman; Divya Kumar; Kerry LaBounty; Dr. Tiffany Moore Simas; Rep. Denise Provost; Sen. Richard Ross; Dr. Alison Schonwald; Dr. Joshua Sparrow; Eileen Terlaga; Commissioner Thomas Weber; Dr. Michael Yogman

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

Senator Joan Lovely welcomed Commission members and guests. All of those in attendance introduced themselves. The Commission approved the minutes from the Oct 11th, 2017 meeting. Senator Lovely introduced two interns who will be working with the Commission: Maureen Whitman and Alishia Morales.

2. Discussion of Goals and Scope of the Commission

Commissioners and members of the public engaged in a discussion of areas the Commission should work on and ways it can improve. Representative O’Day voiced his interest in making this Commission as efficient as possible to avoid misusing Commissioners’ time. Timoria Saba noted her disappointment in the lack of outreach following her feature on CNN and expressed a desire to break down walls and to better leverage important stories about women of color in particular. Dr. Barrie Baker noted her concern for inaction by the Commission and expressed a desire to see concrete steps taken. She also noted the possibilities for funding from organizations represented in the room. Dr. Leena Mittal noted the importance of finding better ways to stay connected as a Commission and discussed mission creep. Jessie Colbert raised the importance of public awareness, Dr. John Straus raised his concern with the narrow scope of the name “PPD Commission,” and Dr. Monica Le and Rep. Carole Fiola raised the issue of practice management and patient flow. Other ideas raised were ways to improve patient flow and referrals, increasing awareness of the emergency services program, and the importance of connecting and networking within the Commission through a shared contact list.

3. Working Groups: see attached document “WORKING GROUPS”

4. Discussion of PPD Awareness Day: see attached document “PPD AWARENESS DAY 2018”

5. Other announcements

- The next PPD Commission meeting will be May 2nd 5:30 – 7:30PM, location tbd

- Due to new State House regulations, we are no longer able to hold meetings after 5:00PM in the building without paying for additional security staffing. We are currently looking for a potential workaround or alternate locations.
- A march to protest the Morton Hospital Maternity Closure is planned for 01/26/18
- A free PMAD Training offered by PSI is happening on Nantucket 02/09

6. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned.