

**Massachusetts Special Legislative Commission on Postpartum Depression (PPD)**  
**Wednesday, April 15, 2015, 5:30-7:30 PM**  
**House Members' Lounge, State House, Boston**

**Minutes**

**Commissioners present:** Representative Ellen Story (Chair); Katie Kass on behalf of Sen. Thomas McGee (Chair); Khadeejah Ahmed (on behalf of Rep. James O'Day); Kristen Alexander; Dr. Lee Cohen; Gail DeRiggi (on behalf of Commissioner Thomas Weber); Elizabeth Fluet; Liz Friedman; Mary Elizabeth Gamache; Dr. Gordon Harper; Erin Hearn (on behalf of Sen. Richard Ross); Dr. Julie Johnston; Peggy Kaufman; Kerry LaBounty; Dr. Monica Le; Senator. Joan Lovely; Dr. Tiffany Moore Simas; Rep. Denise Provost; Dr. Joshua Sparrow; Eileen Terlaga; Lisa Waxman; Dr. Michael Yogman.

**Commissioners absent:** Karen Crowley; Karin Downs; Rep. Kimberly Ferguson; Sen. Jennifer Flanagan; Dr. Janice Goodman; Dr. Claire Levesque; Sen. Richard Moore; Rep. Tom Sannicandro; Dr. Alison Schonwald; Nancy Schwartz ; Dr. Jayne Singer.

**Subcommittee members present:** Beth Buxton; Margaret Hannah.

**Special guests present:** (ADD NAMES OF EMERGING LEADERS; Kathleen Biebel, Program Director, MCPAP for Moms; Divya Kumar, Southern Jamaica Plain Health Center; Dr. John Straus, Mass. Behavioral Health Partnership.

**Commission staff present:** Marissa Muggeo, Aide to Rep. Story, Yaminette Diaz-Linhart and Anna Roy, Aide to Senator Lovely.

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

**1. Welcome; approval of minutes**

Rep. Ellen Story welcomed Commission members and guests. All of those in attendance introduced themselves. The Commission approved the minutes from the December 12th, 2014 meeting.

**2. Updates and budget strategy for key initiatives**

Rep. Ellen Story reported on next year's House budget funding for MCPAP for Moms and the PPD Pilot Programs. She will file an amendment to reinstate PPD pilot program funding. Amendment to fund MCPAP for Moms will be filed by Rep. Malia.

MCPAP for Moms: Dr. John Straus and others updated the group on the strong progress of this program. They have mailed out the pediatric tool kit and have applied to funding to evaluate MCPAP for Moms program in 12 sites through the CDC.

Community Health Center pilot program: Divya Kumar from the Jamaica Plain site reported on efforts to obtain continuing funding for the pilot program. Brigham and Women's Hospital agreed to fund the program until June of 2015 after the funding was cut from the budget by Gov. Patrick in the Fall of 2014. Other program sites have stopped pilot program services or are trying to obtain new funding.

### **3. PPD Awareness Day: Monday, June 29, 12-3 in Great Hall**

Anna Roy and Cynthia Lewis confirmed the new date of June 29<sup>th</sup> 2015 for the awareness day. The event will largely remain the same as originally planned. They will send out emails to confirm participation from the groups that had previously agreed to participate.

### **4. Emerging Leaders Program messaging project report**

Short presentation on marketing campaign for PPD awareness was made by the Emerging Leaders program (ELP). The group conducted market research and surveyed up to 428 people in MA around experiences with Postpartum Depression. Highlights from findings included that 98% of respondents expect primary care physicians to educate and help patients around PPD. 78% of respondents reported that taxpayers should fund public awareness around PPD. Next steps include creating a marketing plan, expanding the research, launching and advisory board and working collaboratively with different agencies to enhance creative concepts; they announced that they would like to work on this project for an additional year beyond the ELP. The group plans to attend the PPD awareness day on June 29<sup>th</sup> 2015 to promote additional research and funding for a public awareness campaign.

### **5. Reports and discussion of other initiatives**

DPH regulations: Beth Buxton brought packets of DPH regulations on PPD screening reporting requirements. Beth asked all present to help disseminate the DPH regulations within respective networks.

Medicaid screening coverage: Dr. Monica Le reported that with the change in administration, significant changes are taking place in the organization. MassHealth leadership has been briefed and is continuing to consider the policy recommendation of the internal MassHealth workgroup regarding PPD screening. Dr. Yogman also reported that the American Academy of Pediatrics will take on the issue of Medicaid coverage to screen for PPD on a state and national level.

Other reports and announcements: Postpartum Progress reported on their “Climb out of Darkness” event on June 20<sup>th</sup> 2015 which will happen world-wide to support and create a community of PPD survivors. Jamie Belsito was featured in an article in Commonwealth Magazine on PPD awareness and efforts to promote screening. Finally Jessie Colbert will be resigning from her work at Director of the Commission after the birth of her third baby. She will continue to support the Commission’s work and effort on a volunteer basis. Yaminette Diaz-Linhart will be taking over the responsibilities of organizing the Commission.

### **4. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned.