

March 8, 2023

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Janet D. Howell
Co-Chair, Senate Finance and Appropriations Committee

The Honorable George Barker
Co-Chair, Senate Finance and Appropriations Committee

The Honorable Barry D. Knight
Chair, House Appropriations Committee

The Honorable L. Louise Lucas
Chair, Senate Education and Health Committee

The Honorable Robert Orrock
Chair, House Health, Welfare, and Institutions Committee

FROM: Meagan Robinson Maynor, DrPH
Director, Division of Population Health Data, Virginia Department
of Health

SUBJECT: 2022 Report to the Governor and General Assembly Task Force on
Maternal Health Data and Quality Measures

This report is submitted in compliance with 2021 Acts of Assembly Chapter 215 An Act to establish the Task Force on Maternal Health Data and Quality Measures, report, which states:

The Task Force shall report its findings and conclusions to the Governor and General Assembly by December 1 of each year regarding its activities and shall conclude its work by December 1, 2023.

Should you have any questions or need additional information, please feel free to contact me at (804) 864-7745.

Sr /

Enclosure

Pc: The Honorable John Littel, Secretary of Health and Human Resources

2022 Report to the Governor and General Assembly

Task Force on Maternal Health Data and Quality Measures

Office of Family Health Services

Virginia Department of Health

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Executive Summary

The Task Force on Maternal Health Data and Quality Measures (Task Force) was established by House Bill 2111 (HB2111) during the 2021 General Assembly session for the purpose of evaluating maternal health data collection to guide policies in the Commonwealth to improve maternal care, quality, and outcomes for all birthing people in the Commonwealth. The Task Force is required to report its findings to the Governor and General Assembly by December 1st of each year.

Task Force members were identified and appointed by the Health Commissioner as outlined in the legislation. Formal appointments of legislative members by the Senate Committee on Rules and the Speaker of the House of Delegates were made by January 2022. The first Task Force on Maternal Health Data and Quality Measures meeting was held on March 22, 2022. This document serves as the required 2022 annual report.

Introduction

The most recent maternal mortality report from the National Center for Health Statistics reported a significant increase in the maternal mortality rates of non-Hispanic Black women (44.0 to 55.3 per 100,000 live births) and Hispanic women (12.6 to 18.2 per 100,000 live births) from 2019 to 2020 across the United States.¹ The maternal mortality rate for non-Hispanic Black women was also significantly higher than rates for non-Hispanic White (19.1) and Hispanic women. Data from the National Vital Statistics System showed that in Virginia from 2016-2020 the rate of maternal mortality was 21.6 per 100,000 live births. During this time the rate of maternal mortality in Virginia among non-Hispanic Black women (49.1) was more than two times that of non-Hispanic White women (23.7).² The disparities that exist in the health outcomes of Virginia's birthing persons mirror the trends of the United States, and Virginia's strategic plan to eliminate those disparities mirror recent efforts of the federal government to do the same.^{3,4} Improving data collection and data usage strategies is one of those efforts aimed at improving maternal health outcomes across Virginia.³

Background

The Task Force was established during the 2021 General Assembly as a result of House Bill 2111. The bill requires the Task Force to do the following:

1. Monitor progress and evaluate all data from state-level stakeholders, including third-party payers, and all available electronic claims data to examine quality of care with regard to race, ethnicity, and other demographic and clinical outcome data;
2. Monitor progress and evaluate all data from existing state-level sources mandated for maternal care, including new Healthcare Effectiveness Data and Information Set (HEDIS) measure updates to Prenatal and Postpartum Care and Postpartum Depression;

3. Examine the barriers preventing the collection and reporting of timely maternal health data from all stakeholders, including payers;
4. Examine current maternal health benefit requirements and determine the need for additional benefits to protect the health of birthing people;
5. Evaluate the impact of Social Determinants of Health (SDoH) screening on pregnant women and its impact on outcomes data;
6. Collect and analyze data one year after delivery; and
7. Develop recommendations for standard quality metrics on maternal care.

The membership of the Task Force must comply with the specifics set out in HB2111. The Task Force must include eight legislative members (three members of the Senate and five members of the House of Delegates), the Director of the Department of Medical Assistance Services, the Director of the Office of Health Equity, the Director of the Virginia Neonatal Perinatal Collaborative, and the Chief Executive Officer of Virginia Health Information. The Task Force must also include members who serve citizens of the Commonwealth as deemed appropriate to include the following representation: two individuals who are licensed obstetricians or gynecologists practicing in the Commonwealth; two individuals who are licensed nurse practitioners or registered nurses who work in the area of maternal health in the Commonwealth; two experts in postpartum care and depression in the Commonwealth, ensuring regional representation; at least one individual who is an expert in maternal health data collection processes; four representatives from organizations or groups in the Commonwealth that specialize in serving vulnerable populations and improving equity and outcomes in maternal health; individuals who are licensed in neonatal and premature infant care and nutrition; a representative in maternal health from each of the healthcare payers in the Commonwealth;

healthcare experts who serve underserved and minority populations in the Commonwealth; two members of the Virginia Hospital and Healthcare Association; the Program Manager for the Maternal Mortality Review Team; two individuals who are certified nurse midwives and one certified midwife and one certified professional midwife; and any other stakeholders as may be appropriate. Staff to the Task Force on Maternal Health Data is provided by the Virginia Department of Health (VDH). The Task Force must report findings annually by December 1st and must conclude its work by December 2023.

Status Report on Task Force Activities

The Task Force Coordinator/Program Evaluator (Coordinator) was hired in January 2022. The Coordinator began with forwarding appointment letters to fulfill Task Force membership requirements for non-legislative members.

The Task Force's first meeting was convened virtually on Tuesday, March 22, 2022. VDH staff facilitated the meeting and the agenda included a welcome and introductions of all members and staff. Draft bylaws were sent electronically to task force members prior to the meeting. VDH staff provided a detailed review of HB2111 and the draft bylaws. The review was followed by an open discussion among task force members regarding where, and how best, to start the work of the Task Force, and timelines for discussions and actions of each provision of HB2111. This timeline would ensure that the Task Force meets the deadline for submitting recommendations to the General Assembly. Members agreed that an environmental scan was needed for a baseline of maternal health data collected and accessible in Virginia. Members volunteered to be on a subgroup to perform that environmental scan.

The second meeting of the Task Force was convened on Tuesday, May 24, 2022. This meeting was of hybrid format, with those able to attend in-person doing so in Glen Allen,

Virginia and the remaining members attending virtually. Following a roll call, the draft bylaws were voted on and accepted by the Task Force. With bylaws enacted, Dr. Scott Sullivan and Delegate Shelly Simmonds were nominated, voted on, and accepted the roles of Chair and Vice Chair, respectively. John Muraca of United Healthcare presented on third-party payer benefits data; Laura Boutwell of Virginia's Department of Medical Assistance Services presented on updated HEDIS measures; and Shannon Pursell, Executive Director of the Virginia Neonatal Perinatal Collaborative, presented an example of best practices in collecting and using data collaboratively in Virginia. The presentations were followed by open discussion in regards to improving access to third-party payer data and the data collection and sharing tool.

The third Task Force meeting convened on Tuesday, August 30, 2022 in a hybrid format. The meeting was facilitated by Task Force Chair, Dr. Scott Sullivan. The agenda included introductions and a presentation related to the fourth goal of the task force to examine current maternal health benefit requirements and recommend additional requirements. Angela Lello, the East Region Policy Director, presented the current maternal health benefit requirements for Medicaid. The presentation was followed by facilitated discussions to target recommendations to add new benefits and expand current benefits to fit the needs of Virginia's birthing people. There were five broad areas for recommendations agreed upon by the members that will be formally written as a part of the final report on the Task Force's findings.

The Task Force convened for the fourth meeting on October 25, 2022 in a hybrid format. The meeting was facilitated by Vice Chair, Delegate Shelly Simmonds. The agenda included a presentation on the Maternal Mortality Review (MMR) process, a presentation on the SDoH collected by the Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System (PRAMS), and a discussion to identify barriers to data collection in various healthcare settings. Dr. Melanie Rouse, Virginia's

Maternal Mortality Projects Manager presented on the data collected, and needs for better outcomes for the MMR. Dr. Kenesha Smith-Barber presented the survey questions PRAMS uses to collect some SDoH, and what resources are needed to expand the collection and use of the data gathered. Kelly Cannon and Mary Arrowood of Virginia Hospital and Healthcare Association led the open discussion on the barriers to collecting data in healthcare settings.

Recommendations

In order to produce informed recommendations to improve maternal health data quality, the Task Force has utilized subject matter experts (SME) to highlight successes and needs for tasks one, two, and four outlined in HB2111. This presentation and follow-up discussion method will continue for the next two Task Force meetings until each task has been examined.

Recommended actions from the needs presented thus far involve:

- Improving the collection of social determinants of health by insurers and improvements to the documentation of Z-codes on provider claims;
- Providing more resources to the Maternal Mortality Review Team to conduct qualitative interviews and improve the quality of reviews and the timeliness of reports;
- Strengthening funding to the Virginia Hospital and Healthcare Association administered Maternal Health Dashboard project and allowing public access to the data;
- Providing universal screenings on mental health, domestic violence, substance abuse, and chronic disease to women at the initial prenatal appointment and post-partum follow-up care appointments.

The environmental scan subgroup created a survey to understand what data is widely collected and which is missing in collection and analysis. Initially, this survey will be administered to the

Task Force and then distributed to member and stakeholder networks. The data from the environmental scan is planned for use to complete, or partially complete, tasks 1, 2, 3, 6, and 7 of HB2111.

After a SME presents each task to the Task Force and discusses the current practices and needs, recommendations to create new, or build upon existing, policies and practices will be developed.

References

¹ Hoyert DL. Maternal mortality rates in the United States, 2020. NCHS Health E-Stats. 2022. DOI: <https://dx.doi.org/10.15620/cdc:113967>

² National Vital Statistics System. Hyattsville, MD: National Center for Health Statistics. 2021.

³ Creveling, E. (2021). Virginia Advances Maternal Health Equity Policy. Maternal, Child, and Adolescent Health. Washington, D.C.: National Academy for State Health Policy. Retrieved from <https://www.nashp.org/virginia-advances-maternal-health-equity-policy/>

⁴ Secretary of Health and Human Resources. (2021). Maternal Health Strategic Plan. Richmond: Office of the Governor of Virginia.

APPENDIX A: Task Force on Maternal Health Data and Quality Measures Roster

Name and Credentials	Job Title and Organization
Delegate Shelly Simonds (Vice Chair)	Virginia House of Delegates
Delegate Dawn Adams, DNP, ANP-BC, CHC	Virginia House of Delegates
Delegate Kaye Kory	Virginia House of Delegates
Delegate Charmiele Herring	Virginia House of Delegates
Delegate Candi King	Virginia House of Delegates
Honorable Mamie E. Locke	Senate of Virginia
Honorable George L. Barker	Senate of Virginia
*FORMERLY Jen A. Kiggans	Senate of Virginia
Scott Sullivan, MD MSCR (Chair)	Division Chief, Maternal-Fetal Medicine, Inova Health System
Dane De Silva, PhD, MPH	MCH Epidemiologist Lead, Virginia Department of Health
Deborah K. Waite	COO/CFO, Virginia Health Information
Melanie Rouse, PhD	Maternal Mortality Programs Manager, Virginia Department of Health
Barbara Snapp, DNP, APRN, NNP-BC	Nurse Practitioner, National Association of Neonatal Nurse Practitioners (NANNP), Assistant Professor of Pediatrics, George Washington University, Children's National Hospital, Mary Washington Hospital
Kenesha Smith Barber, MSPH, PhD	Community Health Epidemiology Program Manager, Virginia Department of Health
Shannon Pursell, MPH	Executive Director, Virginia Neonatal Perinatal Collaborative (VNPC)
Gabriela Mandolesi, MD, MPH	Physician (Ob/Gyn), Kaiser Permanente
Tameeka Smith	CEO, Virginia Community Health Plan, UnitedHealthcare
Kenda Sutton-EL, B.H.S., CLC, Doula Trainer, DEI Consultant	Executive Director, Birth In Color RVA
Chris Chisholm, MD	Associate Professor, Ob/Gyn and Maternal-Fetal Medicine, Medical Director of Obstetrics, University of Virginia Virginia American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG)

Sydney Ray, APRN, CNM	Certified Nurse Midwife
Rachel Daou Featherstone, MSN, WHNP-BC, PMHNP-BC	Perinatal Mental Health Nurse Practitioner, Organizer, Greater Richmond Perinatal Mental Health Coalition
Mary Ellen Bouchard CNM, MS, FACNM	Certified Nurse Midwife
Laura Boutwell, DVM MPH	Director, Quality and Population Health, Virginia Department of Medical Assistance Services
Evette Hernandez, CNM, APRN, MSN	Central VA Rep; Clinical Director WA State Quilted Health
Karen Kelly, CM, MS	Certified midwife, Virginia Affiliate of the American College of Nurse-Midwives
Cheryl Roberts	Deputy of Programs and Operations, Virginia Department of Medical Assistance Services
Jackie Cornell, MPAP	Senior Director, Regulatory & Government Affairs, Unite Us
Jacque Hale	Virginia State Director, Unite Us
Kelly Cannon	CEO, Virginia Hospital & Healthcare Association Foundation
Stephanie Spencer, BSN, RN, LCCE, CLC	Executive Director, Executive Director, Urban Baby Beginnings
Crystal Fink, CPM, LM	Certified Professional Midwife, Breath of Life Midwifery, LLC
Jonathan Swanson, MD, MSc	Medical Director Neonatology Intensive Care Unit, Professor of Pediatrics, Chief Quality Officer for Children's Services, University of Virginia Children's Hospital
Peter Kemp, MD F.A.C.O.G.	Ob/Gyn, Chesapeake Women's Care
Shannon Miles, RN	Director, Ambulatory Services Women & Children, Centra Women & Children's Services
Doreen Bonnet	Executive Director, Birth Sisters of Charlottesville
Sandra Serner	Director, Office of Health Equity, Virginia Department of Health
Lauren Kozlowski	Maternal and Infant Health Consultant, Virginia Department of Health
Jenny Fox, MD, MPH	Assistant Professor of Neonatology, Children's Hospital of Richmond