

Maternal Mortality Review Committee (MMRC)**Friday, April 25, 2025 1:00-4:00****Oklahoma State Department of Health****123 Robert S. Kerr, 28th Floor, Room 1****Oklahoma City, OK 73102**

Open Meeting Act: Announcement of the meeting was filed with the Office of the Secretary of State on Thursday, November 14, 2024 at 10:26 AM for the in-person meeting. The final agenda was shared via email April 15, 2025 at 5:07 PM and posted at the OSDH Central Office at 8:55 AM on April 23, 2025.

Call to Order, Roll Call, and Determination of Quorum: Dr. Chad Smith, Chair, called the meeting of the Maternal Mortality Review Committee (MMRC) to order at 1:17 PM.
A quorum was determined with the presence of:

Name	Entity Representation	Name	Entity Representation
Barbara O'Brien	Director, Office of Perinatal Quality Improvement	Dr. William Po	Oklahoma State Medical Association
Dr. Angela Hawkins	Chair, Oklahoma Chapter of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists	Lori Essary	Director, Family Support and Prevention Services, Oklahoma State Department of Health
Dr. Chad Smith	Medical Director, Oklahoma Perinatal and Quality Improvement Collaborative	Jill Nobles-Botkin	Administrative Program Manager, Perinatal and Reproductive Health, Oklahoma State Department of Health
Omare Jimmerson	Community Representative	Regina Kizer	President, OK Chapter of the American College of Nurse Midwives
Dr. John Stanley	The Perinatal Center-Maternal Fetal Medicine Representative		

Committee Members/Designees Absent: Dr. David Gahn, Southern Plains Tribal Health Board and Evelyn Radichel, Oklahoma Chapter, Association of Women's Health, Obstetric, and Neonatal Nurses

Guests Present: Tegan Calahan, Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and Ashley Bursacker, Centers for Disease Control

OSDH Staff Present: Six case abstractors: Tony Fleshman, Nikki Garrod, Hilary Miller, Leah Eckman, Shelly Green and Amy Foster, Jenna Bellantoni, Epidemiologist, Assessment, Maternal and Child Health Service, and Dawn Butler, administrative support, Family Support and Prevention Service.

Public Comment: None

Vote to accept the January 24, 2025 meeting minutes as presented: Jill Nobles-Botkin made a motion to accept the January 24, 2025 meeting minutes as presented with Barbara O'Brien seconding the motion. Members voted accordingly.

Name	Yes	No	Abstain	Name	Yes	No	Abstain
Barbara O'Brien	✓			John Stanley	✓		
Lorri Essary	✓			Regina Kizer	✓		
William Po	✓			Jill Nobles-Botkin	✓		
Omare Jimmerson	✓			Chad Smith	✓		
Angela Hawkins	✓						

Motion Passed

Discussion and follow-up on previous recommendations: Barbara spoke to the committee regarding a state wide advisory group through Preparing for Lifetime initiative dealing with mental health. OPQIC is looking into adding some members to that group, adding forces to an existing group rather than forming another separate group.

Ms. O'Brien also announced that OPQIC's intention to launch the substance use disorder in pregnancy and perinatal mental health conditions safety bundles through AIM but are currently waiting staffing and funding confirmations.

Dr. Smith updated the group regarding the perinatal psychiatrist Mercy has recently hired to run their new clinic. She will begin her work once her training is completed sometime around the summer. Dr. Smith explained that Mercy hospital hosted a gala in April with the proceeds from that going to fund this program. He stated that this program will start with the focus on postpartum/perinatal behavioral health issues with the expectation that it will expand to encompass women of all ages.

ERASE MM presentation: Ms. Calahan and Ms. Bursacker from the CDC joined for a portion of the meeting. They discussed the Enhancing Reviews and Surveillance to Eliminate (ERASE) Maternal Mortality grant that was recently awarded to the OSDH. With this award, the OSDH was able to hire a nurse to do key informant family interviews.

Ms. Calahan began by welcoming the Oklahoma team into the program and congratulated them on receiving this funding for the next five years. She explained that MMRCs have been growing since they first began in the 1930s but have had substantial growth in the last couple decades. She shared that the purpose of the ERASE MM grant is to support agencies to identify pregnancy-associated deaths by identifying pregnancy-related deaths, abstract clinical and non-clinical data into MMRIA, conduct multidisciplinary reviews, enter committee decisions on pregnancy-related deaths into MMRIA, improve data quality and timeliness, analyze data, share findings and then inform prevention strategies.

Ms. Calahan stated that there were 525 pregnancy related deaths that occurred in 2020 that the 38 states with MMRCs reported data on. Of those deaths, mental health conditions, cardiovascular conditions, infection, hemorrhage, embolism, and hypertensive disorders were the leading causes of the deaths and 84% were determined to be preventable while 92% of the deaths among American Indian or Alaska Native women were determined to be preventable.

Moment of silence: Dr. Smith asked the members to observe a moment of silence in remembrance of the women who lost their lives, and the families left behind.

Enter into Executive Session: Omare Jimmerson made a motion to enter into Executive Session with Regina Kizer seconding. Members voted accordingly.

Name	Yes	No	Abstain	Name	Yes	No	Abstain
Barbara O'Brien	✓			John Stanley	✓		
Lorri Essary	✓			Regina Kizer	✓		
William Po	✓			Jill Nobles-Botkin	✓		
Omare Jimmerson	✓			Chad Smith	✓		
Angela Hawkins	✓						

Motion Passed

Enter into Open Session: Omare Jimmerson made a motion to enter into open session with Angela Hawkins seconding the motion. Members voted accordingly.

Name	Yes	No	Abstain	Name	Yes	No	Abstain
Barbara O'Brien	✓			John Stanley	✓		
Lorri Essary	✓			Regina Kizer	✓		
William Po	✓			Jill Nobles-Botkin	✓		
Omare Jimmerson	✓			Chad Smith	✓		
Angela Hawkins	✓						

Motion Passed

Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Matters Discussed in Executive Session: There were no actionable items or recommendations presented during this meeting.

Adjourn: Dr. Angela Hawkins made a motion to adjourn the meeting with Omare Jimmerson seconding.

Meeting adjourned at 4:06 PM.

Next Meeting:
 July 25, 2025
 123 Robert S. Kerr
 Oklahoma City, OK 73102