

Maternal Mortality Review Committee (MMRC)**Friday, July 25, 2025 1:00-4:00****Oklahoma State Department of Health****123 Robert S. Kerr, 28th Floor, Room 5****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 July 18, 2025 at 9:00 AM and posted at the OSDH Central Office at 2:50 PM on July 22, 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 1:06 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	Dr. David Gahn	Southern Plains Tribal Health
Kristy Wente, designee for Evelyn Radichel	Oklahoma Chapter, Association of Women's Health, Obstetric, and Neonatal Nurses		

Committee Members/Designees Absent: None

Guests Present: None

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

Public Comment: None

Vote to accept the April 25, 2025 meeting minutes as presented: Barbara O'Brien made a motion to accept the April 25, 2025 meeting minutes as presented with Dr. Po 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	✓			Kristy Wente			✓
Dave Gahn	✓						

Motion Passed

Old Business:

Discussion and follow-up on previous recommendations- Barbara updated the committee and informed them that she met with mental health statewide group in May with another meeting planned. She mentioned that OPQI lost some funding that was provided by ODMHSAS when they returned some money back to the federal government. These funds would have been used to help implement safety bundles for perinatal mental health conditions and substance use disorders in pregnancy. This money was returned due to the lack of staff that would be able to carry out the terms of the grant that provided the funds.

Legislative Updates- Dr. Smith spoke about the impact on healthcare in Oklahoma with the passage of PL 119-21 which is better known as Trump's Big Beautiful Bill which was recently signed into law. He stated that there is a lot of concern regarding medical coverage, especially for Oklahomans living in rural communities due to the reduction in funding and the requirements mandated to be eligible for the insurance coverage. He did inform the committee that the medical aspect of this bill will not go into effect until 2028 so the full impact of this bill will not be seen for a couple more years.

Dr. Hawkins also stated that there are several interim studies proposed for this summer covering substance use disorders in pregnancy. She stated that once the schedule is released, she will send those out for others to follow.

Discussion regarding 2023 case backlog. ERASE Grant Timeliness Requirement, and Consideration on an All-Day Meeting to Support Review Goals: Dr. Smith spoke to the committee reminding them that there is a backlog of around 35 cases that still need to be reviewed. To stay in compliance with the ERASE grant, we must review a case within 18 months of death. The options to have an additional regular meeting or extending the planned October 24th meeting to a full day were presented. After much discussion, the committee decided to have a full day meeting in October. Correction of meeting time will be submitted to the Office of the Secretary of State.

Dr. Gahn made a motion to extend the meeting times to 9:00-4:00 on October 24, 2025 with Regina 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	✓			Kristy Wente	✓		
Dave Gahn	✓						

Motion Passed

Discussion and Action: Annual Morbidity and Mortality Report- Review and vote to approve or deny publication:

Jenna presented this year's Annual Morbidity and Mortality Report for approval. Barbara stated that she sent a couple suggestions but one she spoke about was adding some information on several of the cases reviewed that were not pregnancy related but simply pregnancy associated. Jenna replied by stating another infographic could be added to this report or an additional report could be generated showing the number of deaths that were found to be from homicide, suicide or drug overdose. Jill suggested that a brief summary of this information should be added to the existing information rather than creating another report which would require another committee vote. Additional in-depth information could then be added to the next report that will be submitted in 2026.

Jenna further explained that the rates for SMM have dropped significantly for this reporting period and will further drop in next year's report due to the rolling three-year reporting. With 2021 rates well below the rates of 2020 and 2022 rates even lower, the mortality rate will be a much lower rate.

Barbara made a motion to approve the report with suggested changes with Jill seconding the motion. The 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	✓			Kristy Wente	✓		
Dave Gahn	✓						

Motion Passed

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: Barbara made a motion to enter into Executive Session with Regina 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	✓			Kristy Wente	✓		
Dave Gahn	✓						

Motion Passed

Enter into Open Session: Barbara O'Brien made a motion to enter into open session with Regina Kizer 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	✓			Kristy Wente	✓		
Dave Gahn	✓						

Motion Passed

Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Matters Discussed in Executive Session: During the executive session the following recommendations were identified.

1. OSDH and OHCA should make community health workers available in healthcare facilities to ensure continuity of care for pregnant patients.
2. Hospitals should expand midwifery care throughout Oklahoma for pregnant and postpartum patients.
3. Providers should screen every pregnant patient for mental health conditions and substance use disorders, document screenings, and refer to resources that serve pregnant patients accordingly in the perinatal period, in accordance with professional recommendations.

4. Providers should follow recommended practices in the AIM postpartum hemorrhage bundle and the ACOG practice guidelines in delivery and postpartum care.
5. Facilities should follow recommended practices in the AIM postpartum hemorrhage bundle and the ACOG practice guidelines in delivery and postpartum care and encourage interdepartmental communication regarding blood products in obstetric situations.

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

Meeting adjourned at 4:06 PM.

Next Meeting:
October 24, 2025
123 Robert S. Kerr
Oklahoma City, OK 73102