

**The Ellen Story Commission on Postpartum Depression (PPD)**  
**Wednesday, March 13<sup>th</sup> 2019, 5:30-7:30PM**  
**Massachusetts State House, Room 222**

**Minutes**

**Commissioners Present:** Senator Joan Lovely (chair); Representative James O’Day (chair); Anne Boffa; Rebecca Butler; Dr. Lee Cohen; Karin Downs; Margaret Hannah; Dr. Gordon Harper; Divya Kumar; Dr. Monica Le; Dr. Tiffany Moore Simas; Dr. Michael Yogman; Timoria McQueen Saba

**Commissioners Absent:** Kristin Alexander; Jamie Belsito; Jessie Colbert; Karen Crowley; Rep. Kimberly Ferguson; Liz Murphy; Liz Friedman; Dr. Janice Goodman; Dr. Julie Johnston; Peggy Kaufman; Kerry LaBounty; Sen. Richard Ross; Dr. Alison Schonwald; Dr. Jayne Singer; Dr. Joshua Sparrow; Dr. Lisa Scarfo; Commissioner Thomas Weber; Rep. Carole Fiola

**Commission staff present:** Cate McAnulty, 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**

Representative O’Day and Senator Lovely welcomed Commission members and guests and approved the minutes from the Commission’s September 12th meeting.

**2. Discussion of public awareness campaign goals:**

The Commission held a discussion of the primary goals of an awareness campaign, to be funded through a partnership with DPH. Commissioners discussed pursuing two primary avenues: 1) targeted messaging aimed at increasing empowerment & access and reducing stigma for marginalized groups based on specific, quality market data through participatory research and focus groups; and 2) incentivized workforce training aimed at increasing knowledge and decreasing implicit bias across the field, including physicians, NPs, midwives, doulas, support groups, etc. The discussion was condensed into a written proposal that was shared electronically with Commissioners after the fact.

### **3. Preparation for FY20 budget priorities:**

- a. Massachusetts Perinatal Quality Collaborative: The Commission is working with the Perinatal-Neonatal Quality Improvement Network of Massachusetts (PNQIN), a joint venture of the Massachusetts Perinatal Quality Collaborative (MPQC) and the Neonatal Quality Improvement Collaborative of Massachusetts (NeoQIC) to develop a budget proposal. More information will be made available to Commissioners in the coming weeks.
- b. DPH Awareness Campaign funding: This number amount will be determined by what proposal the Commission ultimately approves to move forward with
- c. PPD Pilot Programs: The Commission discussed an increased ask for FY20; the additional funding would be used to bring together CHCs across the state in a forum or series of meetings that would allow participating CHCs to share best practices and lessons learned, particularly in the areas of funding and sustainability, with the goal of spreading the program to other CHCs.
- d. Perinatal Mental Health outcome measures: The Commission is putting together a proposal in conjunction with DPH and CHIA on what funding would be needed to create a preliminary report on perinatal mental health outcome measures, including what data is available, what data can be collected, and how it can be institutionalized. More information will be made available to Commissioners in the coming weeks.
- e. MCPAP for Moms SUD expansion: MCPAP for Moms shared an update on the expansions they have made with additional FY19 funding. In order to continue their expansion, they are requesting the same amount of additional funding as last year.

### **4. Perinatal Mental Health Awareness Day Preparations**

Commissioners held a discussion of the theme of the event, particularly on the difference between disparities and inequities in terms of messaging. The tentative theme is “addressing inequities in perinatal mental health outcomes.” Goals for the

awareness day include reaching more workforce students (med students, etc) in hopes of raising awareness of implicit bias and racial disparities among future professionals. The Commission has begun inviting speakers to address the 3 core themes of the event: data (what disparities exist in MA), language (how providers and patients interact), and representation (the importance of & its impact on patient care). Commissioners are encouraged to submit speaker suggestions, particularly patients who can speak to lived experience.

## **5. Other announcements**

- a) Update on 'An Act relative to the well-being of new mothers and infants' draft: the draft is currently under review by House Counsel; an updated draft with any changes will be shared with Commissioners for review prior to filing.
- b) U.S. Preventive Services Task Force PPD prevention recommendations: Dr. Gordon Harper shared an update on the new USPSTF recommendations and Dr. Tiffany Moore Simas shared additional information on one of the two recommended programs, ROSE (Reach Out, stay Strong, Essentials for mothers of newborns). Additional information was shared with Commissioners electronically.
- c) March of Dimes has approached the Commission with interest in partnering on projects related to maternal mental health and maternal mortality going forward. The plan to approach the Governor in May with a request to file an omnibus maternal and child health bill and are seeking input from Commissioners in the form of a legislative wish list that Commissioners would like to see accomplished. Commissioners are encouraged to submit ideas to [cate.mcanulty@mahouse.gov](mailto:cate.mcanulty@mahouse.gov) and the Legislation Work Group will reconvene to develop a proposal for MOD.

## **6. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned.