



**The Ellen Story Commission on
Postpartum Depression**

Invites you to the 6th Annual

**PERINATAL
MENTAL HEALTH
AWARENESS
DAY:**

***COVID-19: Changing the Perinatal
Experience***

Wednesday, May 5, 9-11 AM
Virtual

Questions? Contact
Elizabeth.Boyes@mahouse.gov

EVENT PROGRAM

Introduction - *9am to 9:10am*

Representative James J. O'Day and Senator Joan B. Lovely

Presentations - *9:10am to 10:30am*

1. PEACE Study: Cindy Liu, PhD; Carmina Erdei, MD; Leena Mittal, MD, FACLP
2. Caroline Flowers Tomekowou, LMHC, PMHC
3. Sharon Dekel, PhD, MS, MPhil
4. Morgan Ashley Taylor, MPA

Legislative Briefing - *10:30am to 10:58am*

1. Remarks from Lieutenant Governor Karyn Polito
2. An Act relative to conducting fetal and infant mortality review (H.2371/S.1474)
3. An Act relative to Medicaid coverage for doula services (H.2372/S.1475)
4. MCPAP PSI expansion

Closing Remarks - *10:58am to 11am*

SPEAKERS

Cindy H. Liu, PhD

Director of Developmental Risk and Cultural Resilience Program, Brigham and Women's Hospital
Assistant Professor, Harvard Medical School

Dr. Liu is a clinical and developmental psychologist whose research work focuses on perinatal stress and mental health, and its implications for the family across diverse populations. She is the PI of the ongoing PEACE study, a longitudinal study that follows perinatal women during the pandemic.

Carmina Erdei, MD

Attending Neonatologist, Brigham and Women's Hospital
Instructor, Harvard Medical School

Dr. Carmina Erdei, MD holds triple board certification in Pediatrics, Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine, and Developmental-Behavioral Pediatrics. She is a faculty member in the Department of Pediatric Newborn Medicine at Brigham and Women's Hospital, and the medical director of the Growth and Development Unit, a subunit of the BWH NICU. Her research focuses on improving outcomes of high-risk infants and families outcomes through optimization of family-centered developmental care.

SPEAKERS

Leena Mittal, MD, FACLP

Director, Division of Women's Mental Health
Department of Psychiatry
Brigham and Women's Hospital
Instructor of Psychiatry, Harvard Medical School
Associate Medical Director, MCPAP for Moms

Leena Mittal is the Chief of the Division of Women's Mental Health at Brigham and Women's Hospital and an Instructor in Psychiatry at Harvard Medical School, serves as the Program Director for the Women's Mental Health Fellowship at the Brigham and is also the Associate Medical Director for the Massachusetts Child Psychiatry Access Program for Moms (MCPAP for Moms). Dr Mittal is a perinatal psychiatrist, board certified in adult psychiatry, psychosomatic medicine and addiction medicine, with a focus on Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and antiracism work. She has numerous publications and speaks nationally on the treatment of mental health and substance use conditions throughout pregnancy and the postpartum period.

SPEAKERS

Caroline Flowers Tomekowou, LMHC, PMHC

Caroline Flowers Tomekowou is a Licensed Mental Health Clinician in Worcester. She has a certification in Perinatal Mental Health and serves on the Board of Directors for PSI MA. She is an outpatient Psychotherapist in Worcester and has a long history of Emergency Mental Health in the community.

Sharon Dekel, PhD, MS, MPhil

Assistant Professor in Psychology, Psychiatry Department, Harvard Medical School
Director, Dekel Laboratory, Psychiatry Department, Massachusetts General Hospital

Dr. Sharon Dekel is a faculty member of Harvard Medical School and a licensed clinical psychologist. Her laboratory at the Massachusetts General Hospital is devoted to the study of the psychological and biological mechanisms implicated in maternal adaption following childbirth-related trauma and her research has been supported by NIH. Currently, Dr. Dekel serves as the PI of the Mothers Wellness study that assess maternal adaption in the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic.

SPEAKERS

Morgan Ashley Taylor, MPA

Mother and Black Maternal Health Advocate

Morgan is the mother of two daughters, a 6 year old and 6 months old, who she birthed during the covid-19 pandemic. Becoming a mother solidified Morgan's passion for helping ensure Black mothers have the supports they need for autonomous and joyful pregnancy and parenting experiences. Morgan is also a community-centered-trained birthworker, and the Assistant Director of the Boston Healthy Start Initiative.

LEGISLATIVE BRIEFING

H.2371/S.1474

An Act relative to conducting fetal and infant mortality review

Sponsors: Representative Liz Miranda, Representative Brandy Fluker Oakley, Senator Joan Lovely

Fetal-infant mortality review (FIMR) provides a way of identifying disparities in infant mortality across communities. FIMR provides communities with information about the effects of health care changes on mothers, infants, and families. The purpose of the FIMR process is to identify system gaps and better understand the root causes leading to infant and fetal health inequities.

H.2372/S.1475

An Act relative to Medicaid coverage for doula services

Sponsors: Representative Liz Miranda, Representative Lindsay Sabadosa, Senator Joan Lovely

This bill will provide Medicaid coverage for doula services throughout Massachusetts for pregnant persons, surrogates, foster parents and adoptive parents. This will make doula care more accessible, furthering the goals of racial equity, reproductive and birthing justice.

LEGISLATIVE BRIEFING

MCPAP for Moms and PSI of MA Collaboration ***Budget Ask***

Presenters: Tiffany York of PSI of MA, Dr. Leena Mittal

In partnering with MCPAP for Moms, PSI can strengthen the safety net for pregnant and postpartum families throughout the state. Collaboration of PSI-MA's compassionate and knowledgeable community support model with MCPAP for Moms state-wide services, including the Interface database, can help to close the gap in the care and referral system for families throughout Massachusetts, particularly for Black and Brown families as well as those in care deserts.