**Maternal Mortality and Morbidity Review Committee**

**Open Session Meeting Minutes**

**Meeting of November 21, 2024**

**Massachusetts Maternal Mortality and Morbidity Review Committee**  
 **Minutes of the Regularly Scheduled Committee Meeting**

[**Public Meeting Notice**](https://www.mass.gov/event/maternal-mortality-and-morbidity-review-committee-meeting-november-21-2024-11-21-2024)

**Date/time**: November 21, 2024, 1:00pm –1:15pm

**Place**: Virtual meeting hosted over Microsoft Teams

**Microsoft Teams Meeting:** Meeting ID: 266 782 267 504; Passcode: EB3GRM

**PROCEEDINGS**

A regular meeting of the Massachusetts Maternal Mortality and Morbidity Review Committee (M.G.L. c. 111, § 24O) was held on Thursday, November 21, 2024.

**Members present**: Allison Bryant, Chair; Sarah L. Stone; Mindy Hull; Michele Helgeson; Colette Dieujuste; Leena Mittal; Sara Shields; Becky Cruz-Crosson; Melissa Duenas-Witter; Soraya dos Santos; Linda Sagor; Viveka Prakash-Zawisza; Eugene Declercq; Megan Miller; James Wang; Daniel Rodrigues; Michaela Farber; Katelyne Louis; Sasha Albert.

**Members not present:** Maryanne Bombaugh; Tonja Santos; Ndidiamaka Amutah-Onukagha; Anne Marie Valente; Alison Sekelsky; Drucilla Roberts; Naima Thavory Joseph.

**Also in attendance:** Laura Kattan, MMMRT Medical Record Abstractor, Massachusetts Department of Public Health; Margi Coggins, MCH Clinical Coordinator, Maternal & Infant Health Initiatives, Massachusetts Department of Public Health; Mahsa Yazdy, Director, Division for Surveillance, Research and Promotion of Perinatal Health, Massachusetts Department of Public Health; Susan Manning, CDC Maternal and Child Health Epidemiology Program Assignee, Massachusetts Department of Public Health; Barbara Schultz, MMMRT Medical Record Abstractor, Massachusetts Department of Public Health; Xiaohui Cui, Epidemiologist, Massachusetts Department of Public Health; Jean MacBarron, MMMRT Medical Record Abstractor, Massachusetts Department of Public Health; Brooke LaMere, CSTE Applied Epidemiology Fellow, Massachusetts Department of Public Health; Katrina Plummer, Massachusetts Department of Public Health; Ruth Jacobson Hardy, Director of Women and Family Services, Bureau of Substance Addition Services, Massachusetts Department of Public Health.

All participants joined remotely, and all votes were taken by verbal roll call.

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**Topic**: Call to Order and Determination of Quorum

**Discussion**: Dr. Allison Bryant called the meeting to order and confirmed by roll call that a quorum of the Committee members was present.

**Action**: At 9:02 a.m. Allison Bryant called the November 21, 2024 meeting of the Committee to order.

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**Topic**: Vote to approve minutes of September MMMRC meeting

**Discussion**: The minutes of the September MMMRC meeting had been sent to Committee members two weeks in advance of the meeting for review. No members had any edits or additions to the meeting minutes.

**Action**: A. Bryant motioned to approve the September MMMRC meeting minutes, seconded by S. Shields, and voted by verbal roll call with Sarah L. Stone, Mindy Hull, Michele Helgeson, Leena Mittal, Becky Cruz-Crosson, Melissa Duenas-Witter, Soraya dos Santos, Linda Sagor, Viveka Prakash-Zawisza, Eugene Declercq, Megan Miller, James Wang, Daniel Rodrigues, Michaela Farber, and Sasha Albert approving.

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**Topic**: Vote to approve minutes of October MMMRC subcommittee meeting

**Discussion**: The minutes of the October MMMRC subcommittee meeting to review 2019 pregnancy-associated deaths had been sent to subcommittee members two weeks in advance of the meeting for review. No subcommittee members had any edits or additions to the meeting minutes.

**Action**: S.L. Stone motioned to approve the October MMMRC subcommittee meeting minutes, seconded by E. Declercq, and voted by verbal roll call with Michele Helgeson, Leena Mittal, Becky Cruz-Crosson, Viveka Prakash-Zawisza, and Michaela Farber approving.

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**Topic:** Motion to end open session and move to executive session to review cases

**Discussion:** D. Rodrigues made a motion to close the open session of the MMMRC and enter into executive session to review pregnancy-associated deaths.

A. Bryant mentioned that the Committee intends to review relevant records and reports pertaining to individual cases of maternal morality to determine, to the extent possible, whether the death was pregnancy-related and, if so, what actions could be taken to prevent the death. She cited the reason for moving into executive session was to maintain the confidentiality of information collected when previewing cases of maternal mortality and announced that the Committee would not reconvene in open session after the executive session.

**Action:** Motion by D. Rodrigues, seconded by E. Declercq, and voted by verbal roll call with A. Bryant, S.L. Stone, M. Hull, M. Helgeson, C. Dieujuste, L. Mittal, S. Shields, B. Cruz-Crosson, M. Duenas-Witter, S. dos Santos, L. Sagor, V. Prakash-Zawisza, M. Miller, J. Wang, M. Farber, K. Louis and S. Albert unanimously in favor to move to executive session.

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The MMMRC moved to executive session as authorized by M.G.L. c. 30A, § 21(a)(7) for purposes complying with the provisions of M.G.L. c. 111, § 24O, which require the MMMRC to maintain the confidentiality of information collected when reviewing case of maternal mortality.  
  
Specifically, the MMMRC moved to executive session to review relevant records and reports pertaining to individual cases of maternal morality to determine, to the extent possible, whether the death was pregnancy related and, if so, what actions could be taken to prevent the death.

The MMMRC did not reconvene in open session at the end of the executive session.