**Maternal Mortality and Morbidity Review Committee**

**Subcommittee to Review 2019 Pregnancy-Associated Deaths**

**Open Session Meeting Minutes**

**October 10, 2024**

**Massachusetts Maternal Mortality and Morbidity Review Committee**  
**Minutes of the Subcommittee to Review 2019 Pregnancy-Associated Deaths Meeting**

[**Public Meeting Notice**](https://www.mass.gov/event/maternal-mortality-and-morbidity-review-subcommittee-meeting-october-10-2024-10-10-2024)

**Date/time**: October 10, 2024, 9:00am

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

**Microsoft Teams Meeting:** Meeting ID: 295 833 779 45; Passcode: U9ipWr

**PROCEEDINGS**

A subcommittee meeting of the Massachusetts Maternal Mortality and Morbidity Review Committee (M.G.L. c. 111, § 24O) was held on October 10, 2024. The Subcommittee was established by roll call vote during the September meeting of the MMMRC for the purpose of reviewing pregnancy-associated deaths that occurred in 2019.

**Sub-committee members present**: Allison Bryant, Chair; Sarah L. Stone; Michele Helgeson; Tonja Santos; Leena Mittal; Becky Cruz-Crosson; Viveka Prakash-Zawisza; Eugene Declercq; Michaela Farber.

**Subcommittee members not present:** Melissa Duenas-Witter.

**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; Jean MacBarron, MMMRT Medical Record Abstractor, Massachusetts Department of Public Health; Brooke LaMere, CSTE Applied Epidemiology Fellow, Massachusetts Department of Public Health; Katrina Plummer, Data Quality Coordinator, Massachusetts Department of Public Health.

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

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**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 Sub-committee members was present.

**Action**: At 9:02 a.m. Allison Bryant called the October 10, 2024 meeting of the Sub-committee to order.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Topic**: Reflection and Moment of Silence

**Discussion**: A. Bryant led the Sub-committee in a moment of silence to honor the lives of the people whose deaths would be reviewed during the meeting.

**Action**: At 9:06 a.m. members held a moment of silence.

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

**Discussion:** T. Santos made a motion to close the open session of the Sub-committee 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 T. Santos, seconded by S.L. Stone, and voted by verbal roll call with A. Bryant, M. Helgeson, L Mittal, B. Cruz-Crosson, V. Prakash-Zawisza, E. Declercq, and M. Farber unanimously in favor to move to executive session.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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