



HHSC: Maternal Mortality and Morbidity Review Committee June 4, 2021

[Maternal Mortality and Morbidity Review Committee \(texas.gov\)](http://texas.gov)

The MMMRC is a 17-member multidisciplinary committee. Chapter 34, Texas Health and Safety Code, directs the MMMRC to study and review:

- cases of pregnancy-related deaths;
- trends, rates, or disparities in pregnancy-related deaths and severe maternal morbidity;
- health conditions and factors that disproportionately affect the most at-risk populations; and
- best practices and programs operating in other states that have reduced rates of pregnancy-related deaths.

Through this process, the MMMRC develops recommendations to help reduce the incidence of preventable pregnancy-related deaths and severe maternal morbidity in the state.

The Review Committee must include representatives of each of the following:

- Four physicians specializing in obstetrics, at least one of whom is a maternal fetal medicine specialist
- One certified nurse-midwife
- One registered nurse
- One nurse specializing in labor and delivery
- One physician specializing in family practice
- One physician specializing in psychiatry
- One physician specializing in pathology
- One epidemiologist, biostatistician, or researcher of pregnancy-related deaths
- One social worker or social service provider
- One community advocate in a relevant field
- One medical examiner or coroner responsible for recording death
- One physician specializing in critical care
- A representative of the department's family and community health programs.
- The state's epidemiologist for the department or the epidemiologist's designee.

A committee member must regularly participate in committee meetings and may also have to participate in subcommittee meetings, projects and presentations. Committee meetings will be held at least quarterly in Austin or at the decision of the presiding officer. Teleconference case review meetings will be held at least twice monthly. Committee members do not receive reimbursement for time or travel expenses to participate on the committee.



The Maternal Mortality and Morbidity Task Force was created by Senate Bill 495, 83rd Legislature, Regular Session, 2013, which added [Texas Health and Safety Code Chapter 34](#). Maternal Mortality and Morbidity Task Force. The name of the Task Force was changed to the Texas Maternal Mortality and Morbidity Review Committee by [Senate Bill 750](#), 86th Legislature, Regular Session, 2019 in alignment with the federal [Preventing Maternal Deaths Act of 2018](#). Later in 2019, the review committee was awarded Center for Disease Control and Prevention funding for the for the [Enhancing Reviews and Surveillance to Eliminate Maternal Mortality \(ERASE MM\) Program](#). The multidisciplinary review committee within the DSHS will study maternal mortality and morbidity. The review committee:

- studies and reviews cases of pregnancy-related deaths and trends in severe maternal morbidity,
- determines the feasibility of the review committee studying cases of severe maternal morbidity, and
- makes recommendations to help reduce the incidence of pregnancy-related deaths and severe maternal morbidity in Texas.

The review committee and DSHS must submit a joint report on the findings of the review committee and recommendations to the governor, lieutenant governor, speaker of the House of Representatives, and appropriate committees of the Texas Legislature by September 1 of each even-numbered year, beginning Sept. 1, 2016.

Members of the review committee are appointed by the DSHS commissioner and serve six-year staggered terms. Members include:

Dr. Lisa Hollier, Chair, Physician specializing in Obstetrics, maternal fetal medicine specialist, Houston

Dr. Carla Ortique, Vice Chair, Physician specializing in Obstetrics, Houston

Dr. Manda Hall, DSHS representative - Associate Commissioner Community Health Improvement Division, Austin

Dr. Meitra Doty, Physician specializing in Psychiatry, Dallas

Dr. D. Kimberley Molina, Medical Examiner, San Antonio

Dr. Sherri Onyiego, Physician specializing in Family Practice, Houston

Dr. Amy Raines-Milenkov, Researcher of pregnancy-related deaths, Fort Worth

Dr. Patrick Ramsey, Physician specializing in Maternal-Fetal Medicine, San Antonio

Ms. Nancy Jo Reedy, Certified Nurse-Midwife, Arlington



Dr. Kelly Fegan-Bohm, DSHS representative -
State Epidemiologist Interim Designee, Austin
Vacant, Community Advocate

Ms. Nancy Alderman, Social Worker, Austin

Dr. Eumenia Castro, Pathologist, Houston

Dr. Pamala Gessling, Registered Nurse, Dallas

Dr. Lavannya Pandit, Physician specializing in
Critical Care, Houston

Dr. James Maher, Physician specializing in
Obstetrics, Maternal-Fetal Medicine specialist,
Odessa

Dr. Christina Murphey, Nurse specializing in
Labor and Delivery, Corpus Christi

1. Call to Order and Determination of Quorum. The meeting was called to order by Dr. Lisa Hollier, Chair.

2. Welcome and Introductions. Dr. Hollier welcomed the members. A Quorum was established.

3. Consideration of March 5, 2021, Meeting Minutes. The minutes were approved as written.

4. Subcommittee on Maternal Health Disparities Update. Dr. Ortique stated that they reviewed the CDC Sponsored MMRIA User Meeting.

- Plenary Session on Structural Rate Analysis
- Obstetric Emergencies
- Strategic Story Telling
- Native American Maternal Health
- Criteria for suicide
- Community Level Data usage to Prevent Mortality

Justice Equity Diversity and Inclusion (JEDI) will create a webinar to develop Equity Training. Indigenous people will be included in the webinar curriculum. The IRB process for DSHS has been completed and the recruitment process will begin for the pilot study. They will be looking at Race and economic status intersection at rural communities. Data will be reviewed on adequacy of care looking at the 2012 and 2013 cohort. Preventability will be reviewed.

5. Texas Maternal Mortality and Morbidity Review Committee Operational and Maternal Health and Safety Initiatives Updates --- Jeremy Triplett stated that:

Open solicitation for new members has closed and the candidates are being finalized.

MMRIA User meeting attendance at the fifth annual meeting

87th Legislative Session ended and staff are reviewing bill impact

- HB1164 and patient safety
- HB1967 data base with uterine fibroids
- HB133 Benefits under Medicaid and HTW.

Today 12 cases will be reviewed. CDC will be attending the meeting.

Julie Stagg gave an update on Texas AIM initiative. Enrollment for the TexasAIM Plus Severe Hypertension in Pregnancy Learning Collaborative is now closed effective March 15, 2021. To enroll in TexasAIM for the Severe Hypertension in Pregnancy Bundle, Hospitals had to follow the below steps:

1. Review the [TexasAIM Severe Hypertension in Pregnancy Hospital Enrollment Information Packet PDF](#) with the hospital team. This document is meant to guide the team through the various steps of enrolling in TexasAIM for the Severe Hypertension in Pregnancy Bundle.
2. Complete the [TexasAIM Hospital Enrollment Form](#). To reference the questions on the enrollment form, [download the Enrollment Form PDF](#). Enrollment was only be accepted through the online [TexasAIM Hospital Enrollment Form](#).
3. Once a hospital has completed the TexasAIM Enrollment Form, the hospital's CEO was required to complete and submit the [Agreement to Participate](#) within five business days.

Even if a hospital was previously enrolled in TexasAIM for the Obstetric Hemorrhage Bundle, they had to complete the enrollment form and supporting documents to enroll in TexasAIM for the Severe Hypertension in Pregnancy Bundle and reconfirm your commitment to this work.

The deadline to enroll in TexasAIM Plus for Severe Hypertension in Pregnancy Learning Collaborative has ended and was March 15, 2021. There is no deadline to enroll in TexasAIM Basic for Severe Hypertension in Pregnancy. If you have any questions or concerns, please email us at TexasAIM@dshs.texas.gov.

The Hypertension collaborative is well under way. 178 hospitals are involved in the learning collaborative and 31 hospitals are working independently to implement the Hypertension Safety bundle. Birthing simulators are being shipped to all participating hospitals.



A summer seminar is under way for an equity system. A grand rounds activity is being developed for maternal health. There will be three presentations and is recorded and available on the Grand Rounds webpage. A new communication campaign is being developed under contract.

6. Future Agenda Items September 10th 2021.

- Presentation by Dr. Janelle Palacios on health equity and indigenous people
- Mental Health Services that are available throughout Texas (rural communities); develop a directory

7. Public Comment. No public comment was offered.

8. Executive Session: to review cases under Health and Safety Code, Section 34.007 as authorized by Section 34.004.

9. Adjourn. There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.
