

Maternal Mortality Review Stakeholder Group
Minutes
Monday March 25, 2019
2:00 to 4:00 PM

Members in attendance: Elizabeth Dawes Gay, Kari J. Gorkos, Robert Imhoff, David Mann, Janice Miller, Russell Moy, Meghana Rao, Rosemarie DiMauro Satyshur, LaShelle Stewart (for Maxine Reed Vance), S. Lee Woods

Members absent: Homayara Haque Aziz

Guests: Renee Barlev, Melissa Rock, Ana Rodney, Matt Quinlan, Jody Sheeley, Del. Jheanelle Wilkins

1. Review of statute establishing the Stakeholder Group

Lee Woods reviewed HB 1518, introduced by Del. Wilkins in the 2018 General Assembly, which established the Maternal Mortality Review (MMR) Stakeholder Group. She reviewed the charges to the group: to review the findings and recommendations in the annual MMR Report; to examine issues resulting in disparities in maternal deaths; to review the status of implementation of previous recommendations; and to identify new recommendations with a focus on initiatives to address issues resulting in disparities.

2. Overview of the Maternal Mortality Review Program and Disparities in Maternal Deaths

Lee Woods presented an overview of the Maryland Maternal Mortality Review Program. She reviewed how cases are identified. Maryland has an average of 41 deaths each year among women who are pregnant or within one year of conclusion of pregnancy. These deaths are divided into those that are pregnancy-related (where the cause of death is related to or aggravated by the pregnancy or its management) and those that are not pregnancy-related. The rate of non-pregnancy-related death is highest among non-Hispanic white women and the leading cause of these death has been drug overdose for the last 4 years of cases reviewed (2013-2016). The rate of pregnancy-related death is highest among non-Hispanic Black women, 2.7 times the rate among white women. Among Black women, the leading causes of pregnancy-related death were hemorrhage and homicide (involving intimate partner violence). Although the overall rate of pregnancy-related death has decreased by 59% from 2010 to 2016, the decrease has been greater among white women (over 50%) compared to Black women (23%).

3. Discussion of the 2018 MMR Report and Recommendations

There was a discussion of the recommendations in the 2018 MMR Report. The recommendations in the report focused on substance use disorder and overdose deaths. There was then a more general discussion of additional recommendations, focusing more on identifying and better understanding

factors contributing to the racial disparity in pregnancy-related deaths. A draft of recommendations from this discussion is attached. Please review and send any further suggestions or edits to the full group so we can continue developing the recommendations over the next several months.

The Group decided that meeting twice a year would not be enough and agreed to meet quarterly. Tentatively the next meeting will be **Monday June 17 from 2:00 to 4:00 pm**. I am waiting to hear about room availability.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "S. Lee Woods". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

S. Lee Woods