

Meeting Summary for Women & Children's Health Committee

Zoom Meeting

Nov 10, 2025 09:26 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada) ID: 996 3389 8422

Quick recap

The meeting focused on maternal and perinatal healthcare in Connecticut, with presentations covering current health statistics, disparities, and data collection methods. Participants discussed various aspects of maternity care, including Medicaid coverage, postpartum visits, and behavioral health considerations, while examining ways to improve care delivery and outcomes. The group addressed data collection challenges, quality metrics, and potential improvements to healthcare access and coordination between providers, with discussions about continuing PRAMS data collection and linking Medicaid data for mother-infant pairs.

- [Dr. Kasia and Jen Morin: Present focus group discussion study on quality maternity care in Connecticut on December 8th](#)
- [Kasia: Conduct linkage analysis with PRAMS data to examine SMM events and prenatal care timing](#)
- [Kasia: Perform geographic analysis of SMM data including rural areas](#)
- [Kasia: Conduct deeper dive analysis into top SMM categories to identify overlapping cases](#)
- [Kasia: Share PRAMS survey details with interested parties](#)
- [Lisa: Email Kai Tao the definition of recommended care components for postpartum visits](#)
- [Steven Colangelo and team: Work on bringing in real providers to discuss depression screening access issues](#)
- [Steven and team: Push for DSS to develop a measure for depression screening rates among pregnant women](#)
- [Steven and team: Analyze Medicaid claims data for depression screening timing](#)
- [Eva Forrest: Send Amy an email to schedule a meeting between DSS, Amy, and iCAN regarding Husky Limited Family Benefit/Family Planning Benefit](#)
- [Amy: Send Eva a quick email about the DSS meeting request to connect with the right person at DSS](#)
- [Eva: Update Dr. Williams on the meeting discussion](#)
- [Kasia: Publish updated SMM report on DPH website](#)
- [Kasia: Share link to HCUP 2023 data in chat](#)

Summary

Maternity Care Presentation Overview

The meeting began with introductions and technical setup for a presentation on maternity and perinatal care by the Department of Public Health. Co-Chair Amy Gagliardi introduced the topic and introduced Dr. Katherine Baca, who was scheduled to present on the department's work in maternity care, perinatal care, and lessons learned over the past few years. The meeting was covered live on CT-N. The meeting was set to start once all attendees were present, with the expectation of learning ways to improve the delivery and outcomes of Medicaid-covered maternity care.

Connecticut Maternal Health Overview

Kasia presented an overview of maternal health in Connecticut, highlighting key statistics and disparities. She discussed the current state of maternal health, including demographics, severe maternal morbidity (SMM), and maternal mortality. Kasia emphasized the importance of tracking SMM rates to identify opportunities for improving care. She also presented data on racial and ethnic disparities in maternal health outcomes, as well as the impact of chronic health conditions and discrimination in healthcare. The presentation concluded with a discussion of postpartum care and mental health screening rates.

Connecticut Maternal Health Data Review

Kasia presented data on severe maternal morbidity (SMM) and maternal mortality in Connecticut, highlighting increasing rates and disparities. She discussed trends in SMM categories, findings from a linked mother-infant dataset, and the impact of chronic health conditions prior to pregnancy. Kasia also reviewed Connecticut's maternal mortality statistics, emphasizing the work of the Maternal Mortality Review Committee and the importance of preventing these deaths. She concluded by outlining efforts to improve maternal health in Connecticut, including data collection, community engagement, and support for programs that address social disparities and access to care.

Medicaid Birth Data Collection Methods

The meeting focused on data collection methods and Medicaid coverage in birth records. Kasia explained that DPH uses birth vital records data, including birth and death data, with aggregate-level data published online. Steven inquired about the accuracy of Medicaid payer information on birth certificates, and Kasia mentioned an ongoing MOU between DSS and DPH to implement a Medicaid flag. The discussion also touched on the challenges of accurately determining the number of births covered by Medicaid, with Kasia estimating that about 40% of births are Medicaid-covered.

Behavioral Health in Maternal Care

Shelly Nolan emphasized the importance of integrating behavioral health perspectives into discussions about pregnancy and postpartum care, highlighting the impact of substance use and mental health concerns. Kasia discussed plans to analyze PRAMS data to better understand risk factors for women with late or no prenatal care, including potential links to substance use disorders and mental health issues. Amy and Kate Parker-Reilly raised questions about identifying risk factors and the role of geography in access to care, with Kate suggesting the inclusion of geographical data to better understand care access patterns.

Maternal Healthcare Data Analysis

The group discussed maternal healthcare data and quality metrics, with a focus on postpartum care components. Lisa explained that 73% of postpartum visits met recommended care components, which included discussions about healthy eating, exercise, birth control, and medical screenings. Kasia noted that while they have one year of PRAMS survey data, they need multiple years of data to share more comprehensive results due to sample size limitations. The discussion also touched on transportation barriers in rural areas and the importance of qualitative data to complement quantitative findings.

Maternal Health Data and Coordination

The meeting focused on several key topics. Kasia presented data on maternal health outcomes, including a discussion of whether PRAMS data collection would continue beyond the current five-year grant period, which ends in April. Steven raised concerns about depression screenings for postpartum women, particularly noting challenges with the current system and the need for

better coordination between OBGYNs and pediatricians. Eva was tasked with facilitating a meeting between DSS and iCAN representatives to address miscommunications regarding the Husky Limited Family Benefit and Family Planning Benefit. The group also discussed the possibility of linking Medicaid data for mother-infant pairs, with the IT head confirming this could be done using EMPI numbers.

From Dr. Kathryn Baca



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1. SMM report: [Connecticut's Severe Maternal Morbidity Report: 2010-2020](#) This is the report that I am working on updating.
2. 2023 SMM data calculated by HCUP can be accessed here: [HCUP Fast Stats Data Tools – Healthcare Cost and Utilization Project \(HCUP\) Fast Stats](#) scroll down to 'Special Emphasis' then select 'Severe Maternal Morbidity (SMM) Among In-Hospital Deliveries for the Nation and all available States.'
3. PRAMS 9 survey (attached).
4. CT DPH Registration Reports (includes birth and death data) https://portal.ct.gov/DPH/Health-Information-Systems--Reporting/Hisrhome/Vital-Statistics-Registration-Reports?language=en_US