

# May 11, 2026 Women & Children's Health Committee Zoom Meeting

## Meeting summary

### Quick recap

The meeting focused on maternal health initiatives in Connecticut, with presentations from key stakeholders. Dr. Fatmata Williams from the Department of Social Services provided an update on the maternity bundle program, which launched in January 2025 to address adverse maternal outcomes and equity gaps, particularly affecting Black mothers and babies. The program includes provider specifications, incentive payments, and coverage for doulas, with 26 maternity practices currently participating. Shelly Nolan from DMHAS presented on women's health services, outlining various treatment programs including pregnant and parenting treatment programs, Women's Recovery Support Programs, and community-based services. Beth Garrigan from Carelon Behavioral Health discussed the ACCESS Mental Health and Substance Use for Moms program, which provides real-time psychiatric consultations and resource referrals for perinatal individuals across the state, having supported over 700 individuals since June 2022 through 4,300 consultations. The meeting highlighted the interconnected nature of these initiatives and their collective impact on improving maternal and perinatal mental health outcomes in Connecticut.

### Next steps

#### Shelly Nolan

- [Coordinate sending out postcards, large posters, and tri-fold brochures on safe sleep and breastfeeding to interested parties who request them via email or chat.](#)
- [Share information about the upcoming LGBTQIA+ conference and Innovations in Maternal Behavioral Health Care conference with the group as details and agendas are finalized.](#)

#### Collaboration

- [Fatmata Williams/Team: Reconvene with FQHCs towards the end of the year to reassess interest and challenges regarding participation in the maternity bundle.](#)
- [Shelly Nolan/Beth Garrigan: Explore integrating data collection on reasons why women do not connect or engage with referred behavioral health services, in collaboration with Shelly's team, to better inform engagement strategies.](#)

### Summary

The meeting was being hosted by Rep. Keith and Amy Gagliardi, with 21 people in attendance. Fatmata Williams was set to provide an update on the maternity bundle status, though the full presentation was not captured in the transcript.

## HUSKY Payment Bundle Program Update

Fatmata Williams presented an update on the HUSKY payment bundle program, which was launched in January 2025 to address maternal and birth outcomes in Connecticut, particularly focusing on equity for Black mothers and babies. The program transitioned from fee-for-service to a bundle approach, incorporating provider specifications, incentive payments, and quality measures, including the addition of doulas as a covered service. Currently, 26 maternity practices are participating in the program, with ongoing provider engagement and quarterly quality reports being distributed. The next steps include completing reconciliation for payment year 2 and considering future policy changes, such as potentially including newborn care in the bundle and implementing shared accountability for both cost and quality.

## Maternity Bundle Program Refinements

Fatmata discussed program refinements for the maternity bundle, including clinical and social risk adjustment, sharing savings and losses, and considering the inclusion of newborns and FQHCs. She explained that FQHC participation requires full engagement due to the complexity of payment structures, and plans to reassess FQHC interest by the end of the year. Fatmata also noted improvements in integrating doulas and lactation services into the bundle, with quarterly meetings and a new online directory to help providers refer patients. Shelly Nolan then began presenting an update on women's health services, highlighting the evolution of services, the role of master's level clinicians, and the availability of real-time bed information and reach navigators.

## Connecticut Pregnancy Substance Use Services

Shelly presented an overview of Connecticut's continuum of services for pregnant and parenting individuals with substance use and co-occurring disorders. She described various programs including pregnant and parenting treatment programs, Women's Recovery Support Programs, Women's Community Transition Support Program, PROUD (Parents Recovering from Opiate and Other Use Disorders), REACH (Recovery Engagement Access Coaching and Healing), and gender-specific treatment programs. Shelly highlighted that many programs are under capacity and emphasized the importance of building bridges to help families access services when needed. She also discussed initiatives like the Substance-Exposed Pregnancy Initiative of Connecticut (CEP-CT), safe sleep practices, reproductive health integration, and secure medication storage. The presentation concluded with information about upcoming conferences and an introduction to Beth Garrigan, who was set to discuss the ACCESS Mental Health and Substance Use for Moms program.

## Mental Health Program for Moms

Beth Garrigan presented the ACCESS Mental Health and Substance Use for Moms program, a statewide real-time psychiatric consultation service that provides support to pregnant and postpartum individuals struggling with mental health or substance use concerns. The program, which

began in June 2022, has provided over 4,300 consultations supporting over 700 perinatal individuals across Connecticut, with about 550 receiving resource and referral support. The program offers psychiatric consultations, resource referrals, training sessions, and a comprehensive toolkit for providers, with plans to capture more data on engagement barriers with Shelly's team.