

## **Midwifery Working Group**

**May 23, 2025 | 9:00-10:00am**

### **Meeting Minutes**

**Members present:** Priya Morganstern, Carolyn Greenfield, Lucinda Canty, Gengi Proteau, Daileann Hemmings, Anna Cobler, Michelle Telfer, Kara Crawford, SciHonor Devotion, Dawn Havener, Selina Osei, Christy D'Aquila.

**Members absent:** Amy Romano, Camille Grant, Fatmata Williams, Kim Sandor, Christina Mukon, Sam Haun, Kathrine Villeda, Shayna LaFlam.

#### **Introduction**

- Sera Gadbois called the meeting to order at 9:02am.
- Priya Morganstern motioned to approve the March meeting minutes; Carolyn Greenfield seconded. The minutes passed without revisions.

#### **DPH Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) Program Presentation**

- Sera introduced members of the DPH Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Program (EHDI)
- Mitchel Jobble and John Lamb introduced themselves
- Michel gave an overview of the EHDI program, which ensures that all CT-born infants receive the appropriate hearing screenings, congenital cytomegalovirus (cCMV) testing, diagnostic hearing evaluations, and intervention services to maximize developmental outcomes.
- Michel spoke about the program activities of EHDI, including case tracking and outreach and education.

#### **Q&A with EHDI**

- Sera brought up questions and concerns about the convenience of/accessibility for midwives accessing hearing screening. John Lamb will bring some of these concerns back to the Connecticut EHDI taskforce to help resolve the issues that the midwives have experienced.
- Daileann Hemmings asked about plans to increase the number of Otoacoustic emission (OAE) machines, and if the bloodspot screening for cCMV will be conducted outside of the hospital setting.
  - John Lamb spoke about resource constraints with getting more OAE equipment, but that the program is looking into what they can do. John also spoke about an increasing availability of (auditory brainstem response) ABR machines.
  - In the future, facilities are looking at a machine that combines the OAE and ABR machines, to speed up the process.
  - Sera clarified that bloodspot testing for newborn screening is done at home.
- Gengi Proteau spoke about uncertainty when knowing what to expect when referring a family to testing, and that she hopes to better understand how the process works at each center, so she

can provide that information to families. EHDl will work with the midwives to put a resource together.

#### **Perinatal Quality Collaborative Slides – Orange Bracelet Program**

- Dante Costa shared a presentation on an orange bracelet program designed to accelerate triage time for post-partum individuals. The bracelet says “I GAVE BIRTH” to alert and educate the post-partum parent, EMS, and other kinds of providers.
- The Perinatal quality collaborative in Connecticut decided to adopt these bracelets as a quality improvement initiative, especially since it has been successful in the states that have rolled it out so far.
- Daileann shared that patients who were given bracelets did wear them. She also raised the question of having the text on this orange bracelet being written in English only – the patient brochure is available in multiple languages, but the text on the bracelet is designed for a provider to read.
- The orange bracelet is silicone (stretchy) and looks distinct from the DNR bracelet, even though the DNR bracelet is also orange.
- Dante will share these slides with the group and speak with the DPH team that is ordering the bracelets to help distribute.

#### **General Discussion**

- Lucinda Candy shared her experience witnessing a home birth, and the reflections she had around the toxicity that can exist in the hospital setting around birth. Lucinda shared concerns over reimbursement, since a lot of birthing parents pay in cash or have private insurance, which is not the case for everyone who may be seeking a home birth. Other midwives cut their costs at times so that they can take on a family.
- Lucinda also expressed the desire to have more students of color become midwives and have an environment where they can learn midwifery. The group agreed to pick up the discussion on midwifery workforce education and reimbursement at the next meeting.
- The meeting adjourned at 10:00am.