

Governor's Council on Women and Girls - Health and Safety Subcommittee

MEETING MINUTES

Microsoft Teams Virtual Meeting

Monday September 14th, 2026 at 10:00am

I. Welcome & Opening Remarks

Rachel Rusnak called the meeting to order at 10:03 am and welcomed members and guests. She then introduced Ashley Starr and Alison Tyliczszak from the Connecticut Hospital Association (CHA) to present on the Connecticut Urgent Maternal Warning Signs Bracelet Initiative.

II. Presentation: 'Connecticut Urgent Maternal Warning Signs Bracelet Initiative' - Ashley Starr, Alison Tyliczszak, Connecticut Hospital Association

The Connecticut Urgent Maternal Warning Signs Bracelet Initiative was launched in 2025 by the Connecticut Perinatal Quality Collaborative (CPQC) and the Connecticut Hospital Association (CHA) to increase awareness of urgent maternal warning signs and help reduce maternal morbidity and mortality. The initiative provides postpartum patients with an orange bracelet and educational materials before leaving the hospital.

The bracelet is intended to serve as a visible reminder that an individual has recently given birth and may be experiencing postpartum complications. Hospitals provide the bracelets and education to patients and their support persons regarding urgent maternal warning signs and when to seek medical attention. The initiative encourages individuals to wear the bracelet for at least three months after giving birth, although it may be worn for up to one year.

The presenters explained that the initiative is designed to help emergency medical services personnel, emergency department staff, and other health care providers quickly recognize that a patient has recently given birth and appropriately respond to potential postpartum complications. The program includes statewide on-demand training for emergency medical services personnel, hospital staff and health care providers, and community-based and organizational health care providers and staff. Continuing education credits are available through the trainings.

The presenters discussed feedback received from patients, families, and health care providers regarding the initiative. The orange bracelet provides a visible reminder of postpartum warning signs and can help patients and their support persons recognize when additional medical attention may be needed. The initiative has also increased awareness of postpartum health within community settings, including lactation practices and other locations where postpartum individuals may encounter one another.

The presenters also discussed feedback regarding the use of the bracelet following pregnancy loss, including stillbirth, and the importance of ensuring that the initiative is inclusive and sensitive to the different experiences of individuals following pregnancy.

III. Public Comment

Members of the public were invited to provide comments, updates, questions, concerns, or information regarding upcoming events and activities. No public comments were received.

IV. Announcements

a. Upcoming Full Council Meeting Dates:

- i. October 20th, 2026, 3:00 pm at the Legislative Office Building Room 1E

b. Upcoming Subcommittee Meeting Dates:

- i. Health and Safety Subcommittee: December 7th, 2026

V. Adjournment

Rachel Rusnack ended the meeting at 10:34 am.