

# ***District of Columbia Maternal Mortality Review Committee***

(Established by DC Code §7-761.01 et seq)



401 E Street SW  
Washington, DC 20024

## **Maternal Mortality Review Committee Minutes of the April 26, 2022 Open Meeting**

The Maternal Mortality Review Committee (MMRC) convened on April 26, 2022 at 10:00am. Quorum was achieved. The meeting was chaired by MMRC Co-chairs, Christina Marea and Aza Nedhari. There were 13 members in attendance.

**Members in Attendance:** Christina Marea, PhD (District Birthing Center, COH), Aza Nedhari (Mamatoto Village), Iman Newsome (Community), Constance Bohon, MD (ACOG), Roberta Bell (March of Dimes), Theresa Early (DHS), Christine Colie, MD (GUH), Monique Powell-Davis, MD (Community), Ebony Marcelle (Community of Hope), Janeen Cross, PhD (Howard University Hospital), Francisco J. Diaz, MD (OCME), Jamila Perritt, MD (Community), Donna Anthony (CNH), and Melissa Fries, MD (Medstar WHC).

**Participants:** Candace Montague (Freelance Journalist), Alana Aronin (CNH), Megan Monahan (CNH), Antonio Nunes (DC Council), The Honorable Brianne Nadeau (DC Council – Ward 2), The Honorable Charles Allen (DC Council – Ward 6), The Honorable Christina Henderson (DC Council, At-large), Dan Passon (DC Council), Jacqueline Castenada (DC Council), Mike Schaffer (DC Council), Katherine Barnes, (OCME), Ebele Brown (OCME), Enisa Boardwine (OCME), Rodney Adams, (OCME), Kera Johnson, (OCME), Jenna Beebe-Aryee (OCME), Jessica Edwards (OCME), Renee Spraggins, PhD (OCME) and Tracie Martin (OCME).

### **Open Meeting**

During the Open session of the MMRC meeting, the Chief Medical Examiner, the MMRC co-chairs and members welcomed the participation of members from the Council of the District of Columbia, their staff, and the public. This portion of the meeting was established to provide an opportunity to discuss the 2020 MMRC Annual Report. This report was well received. Members expressed their gratitude to participants and members of the MMRC and spoke of the Committee's needs. Co-chairs requested funding to support the Key Informant Interview Program. Key Informant interviews will help to fulfill the case review process on the community level of systemic improvements.

The members also discussed the need to fully collaborate with the CDC through the District of Columbia's participation in the National MMRIA database. Additional funding will be needed for personnel to manage the information entered the MMRIA database. Although described as labor intensive, the data will help to inform the CDC of the special circumstances surrounding maternal mortality in the District of Columbia, in comparison with other states.

Members also expressed the importance of having access to mental health services for individuals doing this work. Maintaining a healthy MMRC helps to ensure the continuity and longevity of its membership.

Councilmembers encouraged OCME to provide a budget for these requests.

### **General Business**

Following the discussion of the 2020 MMRC Annual Report the meeting minutes for the open portion of the March 22, 2022 meeting was read and approved.

As there were no additional open matters of discussion, the members voted to close the open portion of the meeting and move into closed session.