

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

ROY COOPER
GOVERNOR

MANDY COHEN, MD, MPH
SECRETARY

September 28, 2020

SENT VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

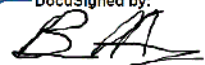
The Honorable Joyce Krawiec, Chair
Senate Health Care Committee
North Carolina General Assembly
Room 308, Legislative Office Building
Raleigh, NC 27603

Dear Chairwoman Krawiec:

Session Law 2018-93, Section 1.(b), requires the Department of Health and Human Services to study and analyze North Carolina's ability to provide women with timely and equitable access to high-quality, risk-appropriate maternal and neonatal care and submit a final report of its findings and recommendations to the 2020 General Assembly. Pursuant to the provisions of law, the Department is pleased to submit the attached report.

Should you have any questions concerning this report, please contact Dr. Kelly Kimple, Division of Public Health, at 919-707-5512, or Kelly.Kimple@dhhs.nc.gov.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:

9B58036E73734A0... on behalf of
Mandy Cohen, MD, MPH
Secretary

cc:	Kody Kinsley	Susan G. Perry	Dave Richard	Ben Money
	Tara Myers	Rob Kindsvatter	Marjorie Donaldson	Mark Collins
	Matt Gross	Hattie Gawande	Joyce Jones	Lisa Wilks
	Katherine Restrepo	Jared Simmons	Jane Chiulli	Luke MacDonald
	Erin Matteson	Theresa Matula	reports@ncleg.net	Jessica Meed
	Mark Benton	Kelly Kimple		

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STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

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SECRETARY

September 28, 2020

SENT VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

The Honorable Donna White, Chair
House Health Committee
North Carolina General Assembly
Room 306A2, Legislative Office Building
Raleigh, NC 27603

The Honorable Josh Dobson, Chair
House Health Committee
North Carolina General Assembly
Room 307B, Legislative Office Building
Raleigh, NC 27603

The Honorable Donny Lambeth, Chair
House Health Committee
North Carolina General Assembly
Room 303, Legislative Office Building
Raleigh, NC 27603

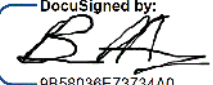
The Honorable Larry Potts, Chair
House Health Committee
North Carolina General Assembly
Room 307C, Legislative Office Building
Raleigh, NC 27601

Dear Chairmen:

Session Law 2018-93, Section 1.(b), requires the Department of Health and Human Services to study and analyze North Carolina's ability to provide women with timely and equitable access to high-quality, risk-appropriate maternal and neonatal care and submit a final report of its findings and recommendations to the 2020 General Assembly. Pursuant to the provisions of law, the Department is pleased to submit the attached report.

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**Department of Health and Human Services
Study on Risk-Appropriate Maternal and Neonatal Care**

Session Law 2018-93, Section 1



**Report to the
House Health Committee
and
Senate Health Care Committee**

By

North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services

September 28, 2020

Background

Section 1 of Session Law 2018-93 (SL 2018-93) directed the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) to study and analyze North Carolina's ability to provide women with timely and equitable access to high-quality, risk-appropriate maternal and neonatal care. Further, the study is to examine at least all the following:

- (1) The complexity levels of care currently being provided by all delivering hospitals in caring for birth mothers and newborns.
- (2) How current systems of referral and transport to different facilities and specialty providers based on patient risk are being managed.
- (3) Disparities in access to risk-appropriate maternal and hospital care.
- (4) Service gaps.
- (5) Issues that impact the ability to most appropriately match patient need with provider skill.
- (6) Recommendations for actionable steps that can be taken in North Carolina to best ensure that pregnant women receive quality prenatal care and that mothers and newborns are cared for in a facility that can meet their specific clinical needs.
- (7) Any other issues the Department deems relevant to this study.

DHHS is directed to provide a final report of its findings and recommendations, including any recommended legislation, to the 2020 General Assembly. DHHS Division of Public Health (DPH) contracted with the NC Institute of Medicine (NCIOM) to convene the Perinatal Systems of Care Task Force and publish a report containing the recommendations of the Task Force. The report, titled “***Healthy Moms, Healthy Babies: Building a Risk-Appropriate Perinatal System of Care for North Carolina***,” was released on April 7, 2020, and widely distributed.

This report provides a brief overview of the NCIOM Task Force process and duties, an overview of their recommendations, and the link to the final report. A list of Task Force and Steering Committee members is included in *Appendix 1*.

NCIOM Perinatal System of Care

SL 2018-93 and the current North Carolina’s Perinatal Health Strategic Plan (PHSP) 2016-2020, developed by DPH and its partners, were used to determine the scope of work of the Task Force. Point 3E of the PHSP intersects with the requirements of SL 2018-93 and is outlined below:

Point 3E: Ensure that pregnant women and high-risk infants have access to the risk appropriate level of care through a well-established regional perinatal system.

- *Decrease the percent of Very Low Birthweight (VLBW) and high-risk babies who are born at Level 1 and Level 2 hospitals*
- *Define, identify, and promote centers of excellence for VBAC (vaginal birth after cesarean)*
- *Assess the levels of neonatal and maternity care services for hospitals using the consensus recommendations of the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG), and the Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine (SMFM)*

Task Force Meeting Summaries

The Perinatal Systems of Care Task Force convened eleven meetings between the January 2019 and October 2019. All meeting materials can be accessed on the NC Institute of Medicine website at: <http://nciom.org/perinatal-system-of-care/>

The Task Force included a focus on: 1) Inpatient Care Labor and Delivery; 2) Preconception, Prenatal, and Postpartum Care; 3) Postpartum Care; and 4) Support for Pregnant Women, Infants, and Their Families.

Below are the recommendations from the Task Force:

Inpatient Care Labor and Delivery:

- Adopt National Maternal and Infant Risk-Appropriate Level of Care Standards
- Assess Levels of Care Utilizing the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) LOCATe Tool
- Require External Verification of Birthing Facilities Maternal and Neonatal Level of Care Designations
- Re-establish North Carolina Perinatal and Neonatal Outreach Coordinator Program
- Support Outpatient Risk-Appropriate Perinatal System of Care

Preconception, Prenatal, and Postpartum Care:

- Expand Access to Health Care Services
- Expand Access to Comprehensive Prenatal Care for Women Ineligible for Medicaid
- Extend Coverage for Group Prenatal Care and Doula Support
- Increase the Utilization and Completion Percentages of Childbirth Education Classes
- Full Practice Authority for Certified Nurse-Midwives
- Standardize Screening and Treatment for Perinatal Mental Health and Substance Use
- Collect and Report Data on Maternal and Infant Outcomes by Race and Ethnicity
- Engage Insurers in Quality Improvement Efforts that Address Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Care
- Patient and Family Advisory Councils
- Align Perinatal Care Regional Maps with Medicaid Transformation Maps

Postpartum Care:

- Develop Parent Navigator Programs in Birthing Facilities

Support for Pregnant Women and Their Families:

- Use Community Health Workers to Support Pregnant Women in Their Communities
- Implement Family-Friendly Workplace Policies

The final NCIOM Task Force report, *“Healthy Moms, Healthy Babies: Building a Risk-Appropriate Perinatal System of Care for North Carolina”*, can be accessed at

Appendix 1

NC Institute of Medicine Perinatal System of Care Task Force

CO-CHAIRS

Walidah Karim, DNP, CNM

Obstetrics/Gynecology

Cone Health Medical Group

Center for Women's Healthcare at Women's Hospital

Kelly Kimple, MD, MPH, FAAP

Section Chief

NC Department of Health and Human Services

Division of Public Health, Women and Children's Health Section

Kate Menard, MD, MPH

Professor, Vice Chair for Obstetrics and Director

UNC Maternal-Fetal Medicine

Latoshia Rouse

Parent, Speaker and Parent Advisor

Newborn Individualized Developmental Care and Assessment Program (NIDCAP)

MEMBERS

Lorrie Basnight, MD, FAAP

Executive Director

Eastern AHEC

Associate Dean

CME – Brody School of Medicine

Martha Bordeaux, CNS, MSN, PNP-BC

Neonatal Affiliations Coordinator, Director of Advance Practice Nursing, & Nurse Practitioner

Duke University Health Systems

Tara Bristol-Rouse

Patient and Family Engagement Strategist

Health Research and Education Trust

Joanna Cartwright, NNP

Neonatology

Moore Regional Hospital

Azzie Conley

Section Chief, Acute and Home Care Licensure and Certification Section

NC Division of Health Service Regulation

Daragh M. Conrad

Certified Genetic Counselor

Wake Forest Baptist Health – Comprehensive Fetal Care Center

Sarah Dumas, CNM

Director

Women's Birth and Wellness Center

Steve Eaton, MPH

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Rachael Elledge, MS, RD, LDN, CDE

Clinical Nutrition Program Manager

Durham County Department of Public Health

Robin Emanuel, WHNP-C

Women's Health Nurse Practitioner

RHCC – Julian T. Pierce Health Center

Joel Faircloth

Executive Director

Alexander Rescue Squad and EMS

Jennifer Greene

Health Director/CEO

Apphealthcare - Appalachian District Health Department

Jennifer Hardee

Coordinator

Pitt County Public Health Department – Women's and Children's Health Education Programs

Kimberly Harper

Perinatal Neonatal Outreach Coordinator

UNC Center for Maternal and Infant Health

Nancy Henley, MD, MPH

Former Chief Medical Officer

North Carolina Medicaid/NCDHHS DMA

Sherika HiSmith George, MPH

Associate Director

Wake AHEC - Nursing Education

Kelly Holder, DO

Women's Health OB/GYN

Rural Health Group Family and Women's Health

Melissa Johnson, PhD

Fellow, Early Intervention and Mental Health

NC Child

Commander Patrielle R. Johnson, CDR, NC, USN

Directorate of Nursing Services

Naval Medical Center – Maternal Child Infant Nursing Department

Mary Kimmel, MD

Assistant Professor and Medical Director

UNC School of Medicine

Department of Psychiatry, Perinatal Psychiatry Inpatient Unit

Nancy Koerber

Executive Director

WNC Birth Center

Senator Joyce Krawiec

North Carolina State Senate

Charea Mason

Outreach Coordinator

Christian Faith Center

Martin McCaffrey, MD

Professor of Pediatrics/ Neonatology, UNC School of Medicine
Director, Perinatal Quality Collaborative of North Carolina (PQCNC)

Janet McCauley

Senior Medical Director, Clinical Effectiveness
Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Carolina

Corinna Miller

Director, Community Engagement
United HealthCare

Stephanie Nantz

Assistant Director of Operations
Office of Rural Health

Michaela Penix, MPH

Director, MCH & Advocacy
March of Dimes

Duncan Phillips, MD, FACS, FAAP

Pediatric Surgeon
WakeMed Physician Practices

Melissa Poole, CNM

Certified Nurse Midwife
WNC Birth Center

Melinda Ramage, MSN, FNP-BC

Medical Director, Project Cara
Perinatal Nurse Practitioner, MAHEC

Anu Rao-Patel, MD

Medical Director
Blue Cross Blue Shield

Representative Robert Reives

NC House of Representatives

Lisa Sammons, MSW

Mecklenburg County Health Department

Roytesa Savage, MD, FAAP

Pediatrician & Associate Professor
Brody School of Medicine

Tina Sherman

Campaign Director, Breastfeeding/Paid Leave
MomsRising

Paul Lindsay Stevenson, MD

OB/GYN
Sentara OB/GYN Specialists

Velma Taormina, MD

Medical Director
Gaston County Health Department

Dolores Vasquez

Robeson Healthcare Corporation

Amy Williford, NNP

Neonatal Transport Manager
Vidant Medical Center

Walker Wilson

Assistant Secretary for Policy

Department of Health & Human Services

Chama Woydak, LCCE, CD (DONA), BDT (DONA)

Owner

Homegrown Babies and Homegrown Families Health and Education Center

STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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Program Manager

Perinatal Quality Collaborative of NC (PQCNC)

Kay Mitchell CNM, MSM

Clinical Nurse Specialist

Vidant - Perinatal/Neonatal Outreach Coordination Program

Amanda Murphy, CNM

Director

Centering Pregnancy & Mothering Asheville

Frieda Norris MPH, BSN, FACCE, LCCE, CIMI

Perinatal Educator

Caramount Regional Care Center Birthplace

Belinda Pettiford, MPH

Branch Head, Women's Health Branch

NC DHHS – Division of Public Health, Women's and Children's Health

Tara Shuler

Perinatal Health Unit Manager, Women's Health Branch

NC DHHS – Division of Public Health, Women's and Children's Health