

Kentucky Department for Public Health

Maternal & Infant
Health Collaborative Panel
Annual Report

Our mission is to improve the health
and safety of people in Kentucky through
prevention, promotion and protection.

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AND FAMILY SERVICES



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Executive Summary

Kentucky Revised Statute (KRS) 211.122 charges the Kentucky Maternal & Infant Health Collaborative with improving the quality of prevention and treatment of perinatal mental health disorders, promoting the implementation of evidence-based bundles of care to improve patient safety, identifying unaddressed gaps in service related to perinatal mental health disorders, exploring grant and other funding opportunities and annually reviewing the operations of the Kentucky Maternal Psychiatry Access Program established in KRS 211.123.

The Maternal & Infant Health Collaborative Panel is a group of professionals and individuals with lived experience who are dedicated to improving the lives of mothers and babies throughout the commonwealth. The following individuals were appointed to serve on the panel in 2024:

- Elizabeth H. Ottman, M.D., FACOG – Ohio County Hospital, Co-Chair
- Brittani Lynn Roberts, M.Ed. – Mental Health Care Provider, Co-Chair
- JoAnne Burch Burris – University of Kentucky Healthcare
- Kathryn Hildabrand Barnes, CSW – University of Kentucky Healthcare
- Colby Cohen-Archer, Ph.D. – Mental Health Care Provider
- Amy Lynn Young, M.Ed., PsyD – Spaulding University
- Deborah K. Karsnitz, APRN – Frontier Nursing University
- Dusti P. Brady – Birth and Postpartum Doula
- Nikki A. Boyd – March of Dimes
- Christina Libby – Frankfort, KY
- Mary Duke – My Sunshine Birth Services
- Lindsey Brown McCormick – Mental Health Care Provider
- Roanya Rice, MBA, BSN, RN – Director, North Central District Health Department
- Deborah A. Mueller – Baptist Health Lexington

Others not mentioned here include Cabinet for Health & Family Services professional and maternal and infant health professionals who have contributed to the work of this collaborative panel. Through expanded partnerships and collaborations, the panel is continuing to promote access to quality perinatal and maternal mental health care.



Successes and Collaborations

Successes

Perinatal & Maternal Mental Health Website

In accordance with Kentucky Revised Statute (KRS) 211.122, the cabinet launched the Perinatal & Maternal Mental Health website, [Perinatal & Maternal Mental Health - Cabinet for Health & Family Services](#), in February 2025. The website provides general information and resources, including access to screening tools for health care providers, on several perinatal mood and anxiety disorders. Between the launch in February and July 31, 2025, there were 113 unique users and 144 views on the site. Promotional materials have been developed and are being shared with stakeholders and other community partners to promote the website (see appendix).

Collaborations

Expanded Partnerships

The Maternal & Infant Health Collaborative continues to expand its partnerships. Members of the panel include staff from the March of Dimes, the Kentucky Perinatal Quality Collaborative (KyPQC), post-secondary education providers, and mental health and health care providers.

Members of the collaborative have also partnered with the Kentucky Maternal Morbidity & Mortality Task Force (KyMMM). With a focus on identifying the leading causes of maternal morbidity and mortality and finding solutions such as expanding access to care, the KyMMM Task Force is an excellent partner since our shared goal is to improve pregnancy and birth outcomes for Kentucky mothers.

In addition, several members of the Maternal & Infant Health Collaborative attended the 2025 Kentucky Symposium for Maternal & Infant Outcomes hosted in part by KyPQC, KyMMM, the Kentucky Section of the American College of Obstetricians & Gynecologists, the Kentucky Section of the Association of Women's Health, Obstetric & Neonatal Nurses and Frontier Nursing University. This provided both an educational opportunity to learn about team-based care for new mothers and their infants, as well as an opportunity to connect with state and national providers.



KyCOMPASS



The Kentucky Consultation & Outreach for Maternal Psychiatry & Support Services (KyCOMPASS) has established a dedicated team and advisory framework to support a statewide perinatal psychiatry access program, ensuring efficient decision-making and expert guidance. A program manager and resource and referral specialist for KyCOMPASS have been appointed to develop the infrastructure for this statewide perinatal psychiatry access initiative.

In September 2024, KyCOMPASS formed an advisory subcommittee to facilitate rapid and informed decision-making. This subcommittee consists of representatives nominated from key groups, including the Maternal & Infant Health Collaborative Panel, the Kentucky Department for Behavioral Health, Developmental & Intellectual Disabilities, the Kentucky Department for Public Health, in-state obstetric and mental health providers and individuals with lived experience. The advisory subcommittee has been instrumental in approving the program's name, branding, mission and vision statements and other crucial implementation strategies.

In accordance with Kentucky Revised Statute 211.123, KyCOMPASS has appointed a medical advisor, a medical director/perinatal psychiatrist, an epidemiologist and a perinatal psychologist to provide specialized oversight. Much of the program's success has been facilitated by partnering with local health departments as grant subrecipients, enabling a broad and effective statewide reach. This structure positions KyCOMPASS to enhance perinatal mental health support by combining clinical expertise, community involvement and strategic governance to improve maternal and infant well-being across Kentucky.

The education arm of KyCOMPASS was launched at the Kentucky Symposium for Maternal & Infant Outcomes in August 2025 with a presentation by Dr. Summers, KyCOMPASS Medical Director. Feedback across state programs and hospital enterprises has been positive. The consultation line has a goal launch date of October 2025.

KyCOMPASS received a federal notice of award in August 2025 for federal fiscal year September 30, 2025 to September 29, 2026. This marks the third year of a five-year agreement with the Kentucky Department of Public Health and the Health Resources & Services Administration (HRSA) to use Maternal Mental Health and Substance Use Disorders focused funding to establish a state perinatal psychiatry access program.



Opportunities

988 Call Taker Training

Through continued collaboration with the KyMMM Mental Health Subcommittee, the Maternal & Infant Health Collaborative Panel will coordinate a maternal mental health specific training for the 988 call takers. The goal of this training will be to help the call takers gain foundational knowledge of perinatal mood and anxiety disorders to be able to provide proper referrals.

Resource Identification and Promotion

Members of the Maternal & Infant Health Collaborative Panel continue to seek input on available [support resources](#) to build a stronger, more connected network across Kentucky. Resources are identified as statewide and by area development district to help identify gaps in service delivery. This is an ongoing project.

Funding Opportunities

The Maternal & Infant Health Collaborative Panel will continue to explore funding opportunities to support the work of the panel. To support and sustain KyCOMPASS beyond the current HRSA funding, the panel will explore state budget allocation options, partnerships with academic medical centers, and Medicaid billing codes for consultation. These options have been implemented in other states that sustain Perinatal Quality Collaborative work and Psychiatric Access Programming & Consultation Lines.



Appendix

PERINATAL & MATERNAL MENTAL HEALTH

Website

Perinatal mental illness is the most common complication of pregnancy and the first year post-delivery. These disorders include depression, anxiety, post-traumatic stress disorder, postpartum psychosis, bipolar and obsessive-compulsive disorder.

The Perinatal & Maternal Mental Health Website is designed to connect Kentuckians in need to available resources. The Perinatal & Maternal Mental Health website provides:



Information

Lists and explanations of perinatal mental health conditions.



Resources

Helpful tools, links and services available to pregnant women, families and providers.



Hotlines

Information on hotlines designed to provide support and assistance available to pregnant/postpartum women and their families.



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SCAN HERE



TO VIEW THE PERINATAL & MATERNAL MENTAL HEALTH WEBSITE

<https://chfs.ky.gov/agencies/dph/dwh/Pages/PMH.aspx>



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