



West Virginia Rural Maternity and Obstetrics Management Strategies (RMOMS) Governance Council Projects – Year Four (September 1, 2024-August 31, 2025)

The WV RMOMS program Governance Council partners met on March 13, with Tanisa Adimu, Georgia Health Policy Center Technical Assistance Project Officer, and Vicky Tsai, Federal Office of Rural Health Policy Project Officer, at Stonewall Resort Conference Center in Roanoke, West Virginia, to discuss ways to improve access to care and outcomes for women and babies in the rural area of the 8-county region of Braxton, Calhoun, Gilmer, Lewis, Nicholas, Roane, Upshur, and Webster counties.

Data Committee Update

On August 6, the Data Committee convened to review the recent data submission. Kathy Moore (WVHIN) noted that modifications to privacy laws related to reproductive health are set to take effect nationwide on January 1, 2025. Access to certain data will require explicit permission.

The Data Team highlighted that the new navigator forms are yielding valuable additional information, including doula care, home healthcare, and postpartum visits.

The Primary Care Association announced their collaboration with New River Health to enhance their documentation, enabling data retrieval through the Azara software program.

The next submission deadline for patient- level data and network level measures is December 15.

On June 4, the Governance Council met online to review the June data submission, progress, and sustainability. Sites, particularly those with navigators, provided detailed updates. Shauna Lively led a discussion on efficiency and effectiveness, internal and external communication, and leadership, encouraging ongoing work in these areas.

Newsletter Highlights

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RMOMS Governance Council



Front Row (L) Denise Smith - WVPP, Jennifer Weingardt - WVPP, Dr. Mary Emmett - CAMC Academic Research, (kneeling) Robin Drake - Stonewall Hospital, Tom Kuhn - Partners in Health, Dr. Kimberly Farry - St. Joseph's Hospital, Shauna Lively - WVPP, Mary Beth Stewart - WVPP

Back Row (L) Sharon Blackwell - Camden Health, Han Wu - RFTS, Janine Breyel - WVPP, Brittany Frymier - Minnie Hamilton Health Care, Morgan McKinney - Webster Hospital, Kelly Gilbert & Maricris Miller - CAMC Women & Children's



Doula Advisory Council

The Doula Pilot Project workgroup, funded by UniCare, merged with DHHR's Division of Women and Family Health to form the Doula Advisory Council. This group will continue to focus on reimbursement policies, hospital policies, insurance enrollment, and a West Virginia doula directory that aids providers and pregnant mothers in locating doulas around the state, including the RMOMS target area.

A Doula Day Workshop took place in Charleston on March 25. There were 26 in attendance. Venus Standard, CNM, discussed Racial Disparities in Perinatal Health and the role of concordant doulas. Molly McMillion, RN IBCLC, LCCE covered Getting Off to The Best Start - Breastfeeding.

In the afternoon, Naima Beckles, a Lamaze educator and certified doula, spoke about Building Doula Partnerships and her doula agency in NYC. Melanie Riley, RN, MSN, C-EFM, led a session on presenting birth control options through shared decision-making, Love your Birth Control.

The Doula Advisory Council and RMOMS participants aim to secure fair compensation for community doulas, including insurance payments. This effort will also make doulas more accessible to low-income women. Although bills were introduced in the last two West Virginia Legislative sessions to have Medicaid cover doula services (SB-313 and HB 5328), they stalled in the finance committee. West Virginia Medicaid is contemplating a State Plan Amendment to include doulas, but the process is lengthy. Four doulas were from the RMOMS area.

Partner Spotlight: Community Care of West Virginia



Community Care of West Virginia, a Federally Qualified Health Center in Braxton, Upshur, and Webster counties, offers pregnancy testing, family care, and adolescent services in school clinics. They collaborate with Dr. Kimberly Farry's OB/GYN team for obstetric care and recently hosted a meeting for 50 school providers, featuring the Love Your Birth Control (LYBC) program. LYBC provides non-coercive birth control information to women of childbearing age with shared decision-making on medical devices and medication. Supported by RMOMS funding, Community Care also partners with local organizations on initiatives like the mental health master's program at West Virginia Wesleyan College and a collaboration with West Virginia's Mountaineer Food Bank.

WV RMOMS Member Spotlight: Dr. Juddson Lindley



Dr. Juddson Lindley, a new OB/GYN provider at New River Health in Oak Hill, Summersville, and Welch, graduated from West Virginia University School of Medicine in 1995 and completed his residency at York Hospital in Pennsylvania. We're pleased to welcome him to the RMOMS Network!



Outreach Education Opportunities

Breastfeeding in RMOMS Counties

The West Virginia Perinatal Partnership offers various breastfeeding courses for trained doulas, RMOMS nurses, and other health care providers working with breast and chest feeding parents. These courses cater to different interests and experience levels. For more information, contact Molly McMillion, RN, IBCLC, Director of the West Virginia Breastfeeding Initiative, at mmcmillion@osteo.wvsom.edu.

Love Your Birth Control Virtual Training

The Love Your Birth Control program educates women in West Virginia about reproductive choices. Designed for both clinical and non-clinical staff, the course covers methods of contraception, their uses, risks, and benefits. It also provides factual resources and debunks myths about birth control while discussing rapport-building and overcoming access barriers. Led by Melanie Riley, RN, MSN, C-EFM, these virtual workshops occur monthly. Register for free at www.wvperinatal.org.

Obstetric Patient Safety

The Obstetric Patient Safety (OPS) will take place on October 16, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at West Virginia Wesleyan College Nursing School in Buckhannon, WV. The training will be led by Mary Beth Stewart (BSN, RNC-OB, C-EFM, IBCLC). Register by October 14 on our home page: www.wvperinatal.org Clinicians working in the following departments: perinatal, emergency, medical-surgical, ICU, and critical access will find this course essential to caring for patients experiencing an obstetric emergency.

Understanding Birth and Breastfeeding Source Material

The WV RMOMS program has additional copies of the books, Understanding Birth and Understanding Breastfeeding, for RMOMS partners. Published by InJoy, it is a comprehensive guide with resources about labor, birth and postpartum and contains an area for note taking. It also has QR codes for videos that further explain the book's content. Contact Shauna at slively@wvperinatal.org for more information

Mark your calendars!

The next **WV RMOMS Governance Council meeting** will be held on **October 16, 2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.** at the Stonewall Resort and Conference Center in the Birch Room. Christian Milaster, CEO of Ingenium Digital Health Advisors, will provide a presentation on the successful delivery of care via telehealth. Please stay over for the Perinatal Summit to be held at Stonewall Resort on October 17 and 18.

The next **WV RMOMS Clinical and Staff Meeting** will be on **November 19, from 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.** at the Summersville Arena and Conference Center. It will feature a network lunch, a presentation on social determinants of health affecting pregnancy, breakout sessions for Year 4 planning, and time to meet community resource providers. Should you wish to include an agency or a maternity services provider in our networking meeting, please reach out to Denise Smith to have them added to the invitation list: dsmith@wvperinatal.org.

Lamaze Certified Childbirth Educator 3-day seminar course will be held this spring. Contact Shauna for more information at slively@wvperinatal.org.

