



## State of New Jersey

PHILIP D. MURPHY  
*Governor*

NEW JERSEY MATERNAL AND INFANT HEALTH INNOVATION AUTHORITY  
P. O. Box 101  
TRENTON, NEW JERSEY 08608-0101

TAHESHA L. WAY  
*Lt. Governor*

Lisa A. Asare  
*President & CEO*

### NEW JERSEY MATERNAL CARE QUALITY COLLABORATIVE BOARD MEETING

#### Revised Minutes of the Meeting February 28, 2025

Minutes of the meeting of the New Jersey Maternal Care Quality Collaborative ("MCQC") held virtually on Friday, February 28, 2025, at 10:00 AM Eastern Standard Time.

#### MEMBERS OF THE BOARD IN ATTENDANCE

Amanda Medina Forrester – Governor Representative  
Cari Fais – Governor Representative  
Cathleen Bennett – Public Member  
Chanelle Andrews – Public Member  
Erica Pulliam – Public Member  
Helen Hannigan – Public Member  
Hetal Patel – Public Member  
James Darley – Public Member  
Jaye Madden-Wilson – Public Member  
Julie Blumenfeld – Public Member  
Kelly Anderson-Thomas – Public Member  
Kimberly Birdsall – Public Member  
Liliana Morales – Public Member  
Linda Schwimmer – Public Member  
Lisa Gitten-Williams – Public Member  
Mariekarl Vilceus-Talty – Public Member  
Mehnaz Mustafa – Governor Representative  
Michael Fahncke – Governor Representative  
Michelle Gabriel-Caldwell – Governor Representative  
Myriam Mondestein – Public Member  
Natassia Harris – Public Member  
Natasha Dravid - Public Member  
Robyn D'Oria – Public Member  
Rose-Ann Uwague – Public Member  
Shital Patel – Public Member  
Suzanne Sernal- Public Member  
Tonique Griffin – Public Member  
Vu-An Foster – Public Member  
Lisa Asare – Governor Representative

## **ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES**

Lauren Lalicon, Policy Director, Office of the First Lady

Roza Dabaghyan, Deputy Attorney General, Department of Law and Public Safety, Division of Law

Michael Eleneski, Associate Counsel, Office of the Governor, Authorities Unit

Eric Carlsson, Chief Financial Officer, New Jersey Maternal and Infant Health Innovation Authority

Laura Wilton, Chief of Corporate Governance, New Jersey Maternal and Infant Health Innovation Authority

Catherine Terrero, New Jersey Maternal and Infant Health Innovation Authority

Cindy Cortez, New Jersey Maternal and Infant Health Innovation Authority

Sofia Bonsignore, New Jersey Maternal and Infant Health Innovation Authority

Chair Lisa Asare presided over the meeting with Catherine Terrero and Cindy Cortez, keeping the minutes.

Chair Asare called the meeting to order and announced that Maternal Care Quality Collaborative (MCQC) was in compliance with the provisions of Open Public Meetings Act and the adequate notice of the meeting had been provided in the manner prescribed by law.

Chair Asare took roll call and welcomed representatives from the First Lady's Office, Governor's Authorities Unit, Office of the Attorney General, Department of Health & Department of Human Services, and the Department of Treasury. Note: Kelly Anderson-Thomas and Julie Blumenfeld missed roll call but later joined the meeting.

## **Chair update**

Chair Asare addressed the Board and shared that MIHIA had surveyed MCQC members regarding working group assignments that correspond with the five MIHIA pillars. Chair Asare provided the survey results and presented a high-level overview of the working groups, their assignments, and next meeting dates.

Chair Asare welcomed Carly Slutzky, from the Department of Health, who provided the Board with an update on the MCQC's role in the Maternal Health Innovation grant. Additionally, Shin-Yi Lin and her team from the Department of Human Services (DHS), State Medicaid Office, presented on the new Transforming Maternal Health grant (TMaH). DHS is eager to receive feedback from the MCQC Board to better inform New Jersey's implementation of the TMaH model. Board members highlighted the need to focus on areas such as: preeclampsia, hypertension disorders, and quality postpartum care.

## **Matters Requiring Board Action**

### **a. Approval of November 22, 2024, Meeting Minutes.**

A motion was made by Helen Hannigan to approve the meeting minutes from November 22, 2024. Cathleen Bennet seconded the motion. All members voted in favor. The motion carried.

**b. Vice Chair Nominations.**

A motion was made by Suzanne Sernal to nominate Helen Hannigan as Vice Chair. Linda Schwimmer seconded the motion. Another motion was made by Tonique Griffen to nominate Michelle Gabriel-Caldwell as Vice Chair. Jaye Wilson seconded the motion.

During discussion, a motion was made by Kelly Anderson to table the vote until the next meeting to provide enough time to review the resumes and qualifications of the two nominees. Tonique Griffin seconded the motion. All voted in favor. The motion carried.

**Other Business**

Jaye Wilson asked if there was an update on what the Maternal and Infant Health Innovative Authority was planning for Black Maternal Health Week. Chair Asare responded that there is no update at this time.

**Public Comment**

Linda Schwimmer shared that the NJ Health Care Quality Institute will be hosting a virtual preeclampsia awareness event on April 2, 12-2PM.

**Executive Session**

There was no Executive Session.

**Adjournment**

Chair Asare requested a motion to adjourn. Helen Hannigan made the motion to adjourn. Dr. Lisa Gittens-Williams seconded the motion.

I hereby certify this to be a true and original copy of the February 28, 2025, New Jersey Maternal Care Quality Collaborative Board meeting minutes.

*Lisa Asare*

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Lisa Asare,  
President and CEO