



# State of New Jersey

PHILIP D. MURPHY  
*Governor*

NEW JERSEY MATERNAL AND INFANT HEALTH INNOVATION AUTHORITY  
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Lisa A. Asare  
*President & CEO*

## NEW JERSEY MATERNAL CARE QUALITY COLLABORATIVE BOARD MEETING

### Minutes of the Meeting May 30, 2025

Minutes of the meeting of the New Jersey Maternal Care Quality Collaborative (“MCQC”) held virtually on Friday, May 30, 2025, at 10:00 AM Eastern Standard Time.

#### MEMBERS OF THE BOARD IN ATTENDANCE

##### Ex-officio Members

Stephanie Mozgai, Deputy Commissioner of Health Systems in the Department of Health

Kelly Anderson Thomas, representing Deputy Commissioner of Public Health Services in the Department of Health

Amanda Medina Forrester, Director of the Office of Minority and Multicultural Health in the Department of Health

Vineeta Kapahi, representing Director of the Division of Medical Assistance and Health Services in the Department of Human Services

Michael Fahncke, Assistant Commissioner of Health and Life Insurance Plans in the Department of Banking and Insurance

Jordan Mustafa, representing Director of the New Jersey Maternal Data Center in the Department of Health

Lisa Asare, Chair of NJMCQC, President and CEO of NJMIHIA

##### Public Members

Linda Schwimmer, representing New Jersey Health Care Quality Institute

Mary McTigue, representing Catholic HealthCare Partnership of New Jersey

Susanne Sernal, representing Hospital Alliance of New Jersey

James Darley, representing Fair Share Hospitals Collaborative

Julie Blumenfeld, representing New Jersey Affiliate of the American College of Nurse Midwives

Myriam Mondestin, M.D.,<sup>1</sup> representing New Jersey Medical Society

Shital Patel, M.D., representing Horizon Blue, the second of two medical directors of health plans in the State, as recommended to the commissioner by the President of the New Jersey Association of Health Plans

Liliana Morales, representing New Jersey Section of the Association of Women's Health Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses

Rahbbee Norton-Lee, representing New Jersey Affiliate of Planned Parenthood

Marilyn Rivera-Cintron, representing New Jersey Primary Care Association

Mariekarl Vilceus-Talty <sup>1</sup> , representing Partnership for Maternal and Child Health of Northern New Jersey
Robyn D'Oria, representing Central Jersey Family Health Consortium
Helen Hannigan, representing Southern New Jersey Perinatal Cooperative
Kimberly Birdsall, representing Health Coalition of Passaic County, one of four existing Regional Health Hubs or any successor organization to that Regional Health Hub
Natasha Dravid, representing Camden Coalition, number two of four existing Regional Health Hubs or any successor organization to that Regional Health Hub
Nastassia Harris <sup>1</sup> , representing Perinatal Health Equity Initiative
Tonique Griffin, Public Member who is engaged in maternal health advocacy
Rose-Anne Uwague, Public Member who has personal experience in receiving perinatal services in one of the 10 New Jersey municipalities with the highest infant mortality rates in the State
Lisa Gittens-Williams, M.D., Public Member who has expertise in maternal or infant health workforce development or graduate health education
Erica Pulliam <sup>1</sup> , Public Member who has expertise in behavioral health
Jaye Madden-Wilson, Public Member who is engaged in healthcare consumer advocacy

## ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES

Lauren Lalicon, Policy Director, Office of the First Lady  
 Michael Eleneski, Associate Counsel, Office of the Governor, Authorities Unit  
 Roza Dabaghyan, Deputy Attorney General, Department of Law and Public Safety, Division of Law  
 Eric Carlsson, Chief Financial Officer, NJ Maternal and Infant Health Innovation Authority  
 Laura Wilton, Chief of Corporate Governance, NJ Maternal and Infant Health Innovation Authority  
 Catherine Terrero, Executive Assistant, NJ Maternal and Infant Health Innovation Authority  
 Cindy Cortez, Administrative Assistant, NJ Maternal and Infant Health Innovation Authority  
 Myrna Rivera, Agency Management Analyst, NJ Maternal and Infant Health Innovation Authority  
 Pamela Taylor, Senior Advisor, NJ Maternal and Infant Health Innovation Authority  
 Sofia Bonsignore, Governor's Fellow, NJ Maternal and Infant Health Innovation Authority

Chair Lisa Asare presided over the meeting with 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 the Open Public Meetings Act and the adequate notice of the meeting had been provided in the manner prescribed by law.

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<sup>1</sup> Dr. Myriam Mondestin, Mariekarl Vilceus-Talty, Nastassia Harris, and Erica Pulliam missed the roll call but joined the meeting prior to the consideration of matters requiring action.

## **Chair update**

Chair Asare addressed the Board and introduced the new MCQC logo, which will soon appear on the MCQC section of the MIHIA website. She also shared recent updates, highlighting MIHIA's coordination of MCQC work group meetings over the past several months. Each group has met at least twice to develop recommendations aimed at guiding MIHIA Board decisions and shaping programming at the Maternal and Infant Health Innovation Center (MIHIC).

Pamela Taylor, Senior Advisor to MIHIA, provided a progress update on the five MCQC work groups: Clinical Best Practices, Innovation, Perinatal Workforce, Emerging Issues, and Health-Related Social Needs. She explained that each group, organized around a core focus area, used survey feedback and structured brainstorming to generate ideas, which were then evaluated using a standardized matrix measuring effectiveness, feasibility, timeline, and cost. The groups are currently finalizing their recommendations through follow-up surveys. MIHIA will host review meetings in July to determine which proposals move forward. Final recommendations will be brought to the full MCQC for a vote before advancing to the MIHIA Board for consideration.

Chair Asare also informed the Board that the meeting originally scheduled for August 29 has been rescheduled to Friday, August 15. The revised meeting will include a vote on the work group recommendations, which will then be presented to the full MIHIA Board during its meeting on August 27.

Finally, Chair Asare welcomed Dr. Sanjana Shah from the Department of Children and Families, who delivered a presentation on Family Connects New Jersey, the state's universal postpartum nurse home visiting program.

## **Matters Requiring Board Action**

### **a. Approval of February 28, 2025, Revised Meeting Minutes.**

A motion to approve the revised meeting minutes was made by Public Member, Robin D'Oria. Suzanne Sernal, Public Member, seconded the motion. Four members abstained from the vote: Stephanie Mozgai, Mary McTigue, Rahbbee Norton-Lee, and Marilyn Rivera-Cintron. The remaining members voted in favor. The motion carried.

### **b. Vote for Vice-Chair.**

Helen Hannigan received fourteen votes. Michelle Gabriel-Caldwell received eight votes. Three members abstained from the vote: Vineeta Kapahi, Rahbbee Norton-Lee, and Kimberly Birdsall. Chair Asare congratulated Helen Hannigan on her election as the new MCQC Vice-Chair.

## **Other Business**

No new business presented.

**Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

**Executive Session**

There was no Executive Session.

**Adjournment**

Chair Asare requested a motion to adjourn. James Darley, Public Member, made the motion to adjourn. Jaye Madden-Wilson, Public Member, seconded the motion.

I hereby certify this to be a true and original copy of the May 30, 2025, New Jersey Maternal Care Quality Collaborative Board meeting minutes.

*Lisa Asare*

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Lisa Asare,  
President and CEO.