

Perinatal Legislator Briefing
December 8th, 2023 at 1pm via zoom

Participants:

- Paul Westrick
- Heather Thompson
- Rep. Garcia
- Lauren Smith
- Justina Nazario (CPM)
- Dia Ingalls (CPM)
- Danika Lam
- Shannon Schell
- Shan Lagard
- Casiah Smith
- Cassify Fowler
- Rep. Mary Young
- Dafne Lucio
- Katie Hancock
- Amara Hobbs
- Jena
- Chauncy Johnson - Rep. Snyder aide
- Rep. Jodeh
- Rep. Young
- Lily Padula - Rep. Young aide
- Gina Kelble
- Katie Hancock
- Rep. Hernandez
- Rep. McCormick
- Sen. Marchman
- Rep. Kipp
- Sen. Vigil
- Sen. Roberts
- Sen. Fields

Agenda:

- Welcomes-Mayra

- Brief overview of CPM education
- What is the Midwifery Model of Care
- Walk through of the bill
- Q & A

Minutes:

1:02pm - Introduction remarks from Rep. Garcia

1:05pm - Walk through the main points on the bill from Rep. Garcia.

1. Establishes a study that studies the cause of perinatal health gaps across the state including maternal health care closures, recommending best practices on new or growing maternal health care deserts, and has a focus on increasing maternal health care workforce
2. Improves pathways to report perinatal discrimination including obstetric violence
3. Add pregnancy to areas where discrimination can be filled
4. Bolsters and protects the midwifery workforce that specializes in community births

1:08pm - Comments from Lauren Smith on additions of importance for certified professional midwives (CPM). Discussion on changing language around CPMs regarding licensing and laying a better foundation around CPMs

1:10pm Justina Nazario (CPM) shared the training requirements for a CPM. Justina walked through the education process and pathway to become certified.

1:14pm Lauren Smith discussed the demand for community birth options and how it has skyrocketed. Discussed how this policy focuses on underserved communities and how the bill works to improve maternal health outcomes.

1:16pm Dia Ingalls (CPM) discussed how CPMs establish 1:1 relationships with their clients and what the birth centers have to offer including home visits, 30-90 minute visits with clients to build rapport, etc.. which creates a trusted relationship between client and birth center. Discussed the postpartum services they offer which differs from hospital care.

1:19pm Lauren Smith re-emphasized the importance of postpartum care.

1:19 Rep. Garcia acknowledged that it is common practice for industries to have different types of licenses so this is not a new practice. She also discussed how state Medicaid now allows anyone with that coverage option who uses a CPM to be reimbursed and mentioned the relevance of timing to move CPM's into licensed providers to close the loop with Medicaid

1:21pm Heather Thompson discussed the benefit of Medicaid and how this bill would lower the barrier for CPMs interaction with Medicaid

1:22 Q&A

- Justina Nazario added as a personal note, she is the first Afro Latina CPM in Colorado. She discussed the barriers of midwifery school that underserved communities are facing which corresponds with the barriers of care. The opportunity to make systemic change is

important. The bill coming has true systemic impact on the communities they are serving

- Heather Thompson highlighted that the study in the bill should look at different aspects in maternal health including assets and deserts and how important the study will be

1:27pm Wrap up from Rep. Garcia. Rep. Garcia mentioned the great work of Elephant Circle and how great it is to see a system of care being built and acknowledges the harm that has taken place through systemic racism.

1:28pm Wrap up from Rep. Jodeh who mentioned her excitement to be on the bill with Rep. Garcia and the importance of the legislation.

1:28pm Meeting Adjourned