

2021

PROJECT NO.
0921

#OPTINPA: A ROADMAP TO 1-YEAR OF MEDICAID COVERAGE FOR POSTPARTUM PENNSYLVANIANS

A COMMUNICATIONS GUIDE FOR:
LEGISLATORS, ADVOCATES, PARTNERS, & PROVIDERS

PREPARED BY:
The Pennsylvania Women's Health Caucus 2021

WWW.PAHOUSE.COM/WOMENSHEALTHCAUCUS

OVERVIEW

The Women's Health Caucus (WHC) supports the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services (DHS) and all partners and providers in implementing a state plan amendment to extend Medicaid coverage to one-year postpartum for Pennsylvanians in April 2022 as provided in the American Rescue Plan (ARP).

GOALS & OBJECTIVES

- 01** Highlight Pennsylvania's need for holistic, extended postpartum coverage, specifically as it pertains to families that participate in MA
- 02** Effectively communicate the Wolf Administration's ability to implement this extension without legislation, creating widespread public support for the program between now and April 2022

CONTENT

- Messaging & Talking Points
- Activities Roadmap
- Social & Digital Media
- Articles & Reports



BACKGROUND

We have a pregnancy associated mortality crisis in Pennsylvania. Commonly referred to as maternal mortality, it is estimated that 1 in 10,000 birthing people, including 1 in 5,000 Black birthing people are dying after childbirth. Fifty- eight percent of those deaths occurred between 42 and 365 days of delivery, beyond the standard 60 days of Medical Assistance (MA) coverage for pregnant and birthing people in Pennsylvania. In addition, 53 percent of the cases of pregnancy-related death between 2013 and 2018 affected parents who were enrolled in Medical Assistance when they delivered. -1

The Medical Assistance program can make a transformational change in perinatal and postpartum health outcomes. There is also an opportunity to make a multi-generational impact when birthing people can be present to nurture their babies, raise their families and/or contribute to their communities.

The American Rescue Plan provides states an option to extend Medicaid coverage for postpartum care from 60 days to 12 months, effective April 1, 2022, via state plan amendment. In providing this option to states, the federal government recognizes that the postpartum period extends well beyond 60 days and that many conditions leading to pregnancy- associated death -- including cardiovascular diseases, hypertension, and depression -- require longer term access to care. In addition, extended coverage would allow people struggling with substance use disorder continuity in their battle against addiction – an important lifeline when 30 percent of pregnancy-related deaths in Pennsylvania between 2013 and 2018 were due to accidental poisoning, including overdose.

We have much work to do to improve health outcomes across Pennsylvania, especially in low-income communities and communities of color disproportionately impacted by this crisis but expanding Medical Assistance to provide these families 12 months of postpartum coverage is an instrumental piece of the puzzle. Our caucus stands committed to supporting the state Department of Human Services and all partners and providers in implementing this vital, life-saving expansion for postpartum healthcare coverage, effective April 1, 2022.

MESSAGING/TALKING POINTS

- The CDC reports that **nationally, 17.4 pregnancy-related deaths occur per 100,000 pregnancies per year** -2
- The pregnancy-related mortality rate is nearly **3x as high for Black birthing people compared to white women** -3
- **Center for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) reports deaths occur** -4
 - 31 percent during pregnancy
 - 16.9 percent on the day of delivery
 - 51.8 percent post-partum
- In Pennsylvania, Black birthing people are more than three times as likely to die in childbirth, or immediately following childbirth, than white birthing people.

Maternal Mortality is a crisis in Pennsylvania - 1

- It is estimated that 1 in 10,000 women, including 1 in 5,000 black women are dying after childbirth.
- **Fifty-eight percent of those deaths occurred between 42 and 365 days of delivery, beyond the standard 60 days of Medical Assistance (MA) coverage for pregnant women in Pennsylvania.**
- In addition, 53 percent of the cases of maternal death between 2013 and 2018 affected mothers who were enrolled in Medical Assistance when they delivered.
- **Accidental poisoning**, which includes drug related overdose deaths, accounted for 30 percent of pregnancy-associated deaths from 2013-2018 and was the leading cause of death for Black and White birthing people. In 2018, 40 percent of all pregnancy associated deaths were due to accidental poisoning -- a 21 percent increase from 2013.
- Appx. one-half of pregnancy-associated death cases **did not receive adequate prenatal care**
- **Pregnancy-associated deaths were evenly distributed among both urban and rural counties in PA** during 2013 to 2018, with the more densely populated urban counties accounting for 408 (75 percent) of pregnancy-associated deaths, which is comparable to the percentage of births to urban county residents during this time (76 percent). - 5

MESSAGING/TALKING POINTS CONT'D

- **One study found that after controlling for several variables like income, age, hypertension, and prenatal care, Black birthing people still experienced significantly higher rates of pregnancy-related death** demonstrating the significant impact of systemic racism on Black health. -6
- We also know that Black and Hispanic people receive less medication for pain after childbirth and during the 24-hours after giving birth, birthing people of color are asked less frequently about their pain levels than their white counterparts. -7
- **Appx. 45 percent of Philly deaths had history of mental health issues; 58% drug use** (regardless of cause of death). -2
- **Pregnancy-related deaths for Black birthing people in Pittsburgh is higher than 97 percent of similar U.S. cities**, despite starting prenatal care earlier than Black pregnant people in similar cities and having lower rates of gestational diabetes, hypertension, and infection.
- **Deaths due to accidental drug overdoses increased from 25 percent to 39 percent** (Phila). -8
- While many reforms, updates, and innovations are needed to help improve our medical system and produce better outcomes for parents and babies, **Pennsylvania is taking an important major step in the right direction by immediately extending postpartum coverage for MA patients from the current 60 days to a full 12 months.**
- This not only helps postpartum people recover from childbirth and associated medical conditions, but it promotes their own health and wellbeing, helping to better positioned to care for their family.
- **A parent's access to health care benefits the entire family** as the overwhelming costs of a new family member can cause them to go uninsured or underinsured as they struggle to acclimate to new costs such as childcare and diapers while maintaining other necessities such as food and housing.
- Our caucus and our allies stand committed to supporting the state Department of Human Services and all providers in implementing this vital, life-saving expansion for new mothers, effective April 1, 2022.

#OPTINPA ROADMAP*

AUGUST 2021 | ACKNOWLEDGING PA ARP MEDICAID EXTENSION OPTIN DECISION

- Opt-In PA Kickoff Press Conference
- WHC Press Release
- Southeast PA Walking Tour | Drexel College of Medicine
- Western PA Roundtable & Tour | Magee Women's Health Center, Healthy Start Pittsburgh, Black Women's Policy Agenda
- Regional Advocacy Group Op-eds focused on Medicaid Extension Opt-In/ARP - Alliance
- Thriving PA Toolkit Available

SEPTEMBER 2021 | MATERNAL HEALTH FALL LEGISLATIVE DECISION

- Southeast PA Press Conference | PennMedicine Chester County | Senator Comitta
- WHC Press Conference & Release | State Capitol
- Northeast PA Virtual Policy Roundtable on Maternal Health Fall Legislative Agenda
- WHC Landing Page Creation (Internal)
- ACOG Legislative Day

OCTOBER 2021 | POSTPARTUM DEPRESSION; NATIONAL DEPRESSION MONTH

- Northcentral Virtual Policy Roundtable
- WHC Press Release
- Regional Advocacy Group Op-eds
- Legislative Highlights via Social Media (including tweet conversation, graphic posts, videos, etc.)

NOVEMBER 2021 | SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER (SUD)

- Northeast Virtual Policy Roundtable
- Cappalletti/Schwank Press Conference | Pottstown
- WHC Press Release
- Regional Advocacy Groupeds
- Legislative Highlights via Social Media (including tweet conversation, graphic posts, videos, etc.)

DECEMBER 2021 | EXPANDING THE PERINATAL WORKFORCE

- Member District Facility Tours focused on expanding the perinatal workforce with Social Media Highlights (including pictures, graphic posts, videos, etc.)
- WHC Press Release: Tour Site Specific
- Regional Advocacy Group Op-eds focused on the role of birth workers including doulas and midwives

JANUARY 2022 | EXPANDING THE PERINATAL WORKFORCE

- WHC Full-body meeting
- Meeting with the Department of Human Services and Wolf Administration
- WHC Press Release: Legislative Agenda

FEBRUARY 2022 | EXPANDING THE PERINATAL WORKFORCE

- Regional advocacy group op-eds
- Legislative Highlights via Social Media (including tweet conversation, graphic posts, videos, etc.)

MARCH 2022 | EXPANDING THE PERINATAL WORKFORCE

- WHC Press Conference
- WHC Press Release
- Regional advocacy group/WHC op-eds on overall expansion

APRIL 2022 | MEDICAID EXTENSION

- The PA Department of Human Services Implements Medicaid Extension to 1-year postpartum

*Subject to change. Dates TBD and shared.

SOCIAL & DIGITAL MEDIA

#OptInPA

#BirthingPeople CantWait

#OptInforMA

#Coveragefor1yearPostpartum

#PAWomensHealthCaucus



*Thank you for joining the Pennsylvania Women's Health Caucus on the road to Medicaid Extension to 1-year postpartum for Pennsylvanians.
This issue is important to us and we are glad to have your support.
Please keep in touch with us via social media using the hashtags, handles and websites below.*


State Representative Morgan Cephas

 Rep. Morgan Cephas
 @Morgan_Cephas
 @RepCephas

State Senator Judy Schwank

Senator Judy Schwank
@SenJudySchwank
@SenJudySchwank

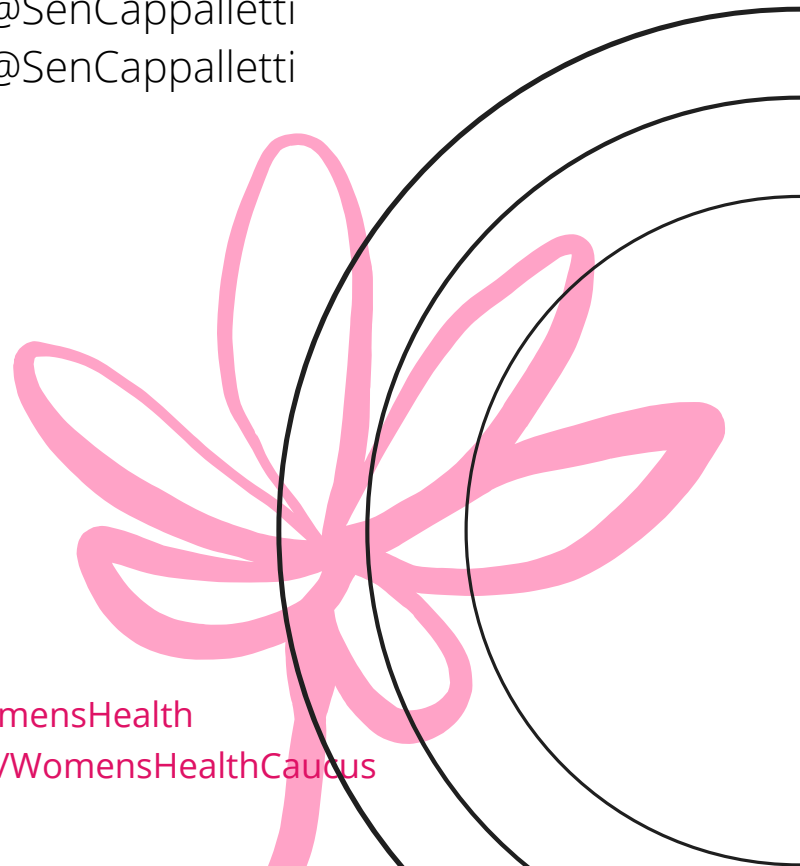
State Representative Mary Jo Daley

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State Senator Amanda Cappalletti

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[1] Pregnancy Associated Deaths in Pennsylvania, 2013-2018

[2] First Data Released on Maternal Mortality in Over a Decade (cdc.gov), 2020.

[3] Racial and Ethnic Disparities Continue in Pregnancy-Related Deaths | CDC Online Newsroom | CDC

[4] Pregnancy-related Deaths | VitalSigns | CDC

[5] Enterprise Data Dissemination Informatics Exchange (EDDIE) <https://www.phaim1.health.pa.gov/EDD/>

[6] Nothing Protects Black Women From Dying in Pregnancy and Childbirth – ProPublica

[7] Black, Hispanic mothers report more pain after delivery but get less pain medication | Reuters

[8] Improving outcomes: Maternal Mortality in Philadelphia