



MDPQC Parent and Baby Advisory Council Newsletter

April 2025

Latest Updates from the Parent and Baby Advisory Council (PBAC)

The PBAC reached a milestone, celebrating its one-year anniversary in January. Members took this opportunity to reflect on the past year, sharing insights on achievements and aspirations for the upcoming year.

Many expressed a sense of having made a positive impact on birthing hospitals, emphasizing their role in representing the diverse needs of patients and families in Maryland. The PBAC is eager to build on these efforts and enhance support for Maryland's birthing hospitals and MDPQC initiatives.

PBAC Highlights

1. Members discussed the latest MDPQC updates and engaged in a deep dive of data, focused on patient debriefs, respectful and equitable care and patient support after a hemorrhage. **The PBAC is available to assist with data review at your institution!** We can help identify solutions that enhance practices and ultimately improve data.
2. The PBAC reviewed Maryland legislation updates and provided guidance to hospitals on how they can best implement components of the policies that have a direct effect on patients and families. As a result, members created a 4-step checklist for hospitals outlining steps to take with patients and their families prior to discharge to prepare them for their follow-up phone call. The checklist ([one with fillable checks](#) and [one without](#)) is now available for download on the [MDPQC website](#).

We also encouraged hospitals to consider patient trauma, consent for testing, and patient education while developing best practices or protocols.

Contact us to receive support with establishing protocols and best practices to ensure compliance with legislative requirements.

3. Members provided feedback on a MDPQC patient-facing resource on late pre-term infant hypoglycemia risk, covering format, visual appeal,

and literacy and language. The recommendations from the PBAC were integrated into the final product and the rack card is now **available for download on the [MDPQC website](#)**. The PBAC is available to review your patient-facing resources or tools, providing feedback on the document through the lens of patients and families.

4. The PBAC continues to offer insights on various requests from hospitals, including optimal timing for patient debriefs. Members highlighted the importance of inquiring with patients about their preferred timing for a debriefing, particularly in the context of birth trauma, and suggested using accessible language like "post-event discussion."
Contact us if your institution has a request. The PBAC is equipped to provide a variety of support options tailored to your needs.
5. The PBAC evaluated a script for discharge phone calls, providing insights on the proposed questions, identifying opportunities to engage with the birthing individual during the conversation, enhancing postpartum connections to community resources, and refining the language used. **Contact us if your institution would like to have the PBAC review patient-facing tools, resources, and/or best practices.** Members can ensure patient-facing tools, resources, and/or best practices focus on the needs of patients and families.

Meet Our PBAC Members

Ebony Ford is a proud wife and mother of two former micropreemies, Reign Victoria and Roman Vaughn. After her traumatic births she formed Miracle Mamas, a nonprofit to support parents and caregivers of premature, medically fragile and disabled babies. Miracle Mamas runs three support groups weekly through which she has mentored over 130 families.



Ebony Ford

University and is currently pursuing her master's degree in Forensic Psychology at Southern New Hampshire University. Ebony's goal is to open her own practice and specialize in near death experiences, specifically in birth trauma.

Ebony is also a sitting member of the Maryland Maternal Mortality Review Board and the Johns Hopkins Maternal Health Research Advisory Council where she serves to ensure that residents of Maryland have positive birth experiences.

Ebony received her bachelor's degree in Psychology and Certificate in Pastoral Counseling from Liberty

Emily Frost is a Baltimore-based public health professional, specializing in maternal and infant health and program evaluation. She currently works as an Evaluation Manager at March of Dimes, focusing on community-based maternal and infant health initiatives in the U.S., and as a birth doula in Baltimore.



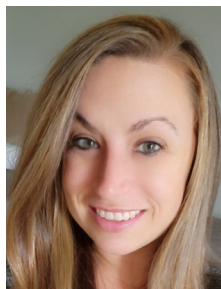
Emily Frost

in sub-Saharan Africa; as a case manager for HIV+ Medicaid clients in New York City; and as a Peace Corps volunteer in Burkina Faso, West Africa.

Ms. Frost has additional experience assisting new refugee mothers in Atlanta in navigating the U.S. healthcare system, and conducting a child nutrition needs assessment in rural DR Congo. She has a master's degree in public health from Emory University and is a Certified Doula through DONA International.

She has previously worked at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, partnering with maternal and child health programs

With a drive to work with families and children to ensure their needs are met, **Jackelyn Hirsch** began her journey supporting Maryland Women, Infants and Children (WIC) in 2014 as a WIC Service Associate performing certifications for clients.



Jackelyn Hirsch

Supervisor in Cecil County until accepting her current position at WIC as a Program Coordinator in Washington County where she oversees the clinic division of WIC as well as the state's distribution center.

Based in western Maryland, Jackelyn earned her bachelor's degree in human services with a focus in Family and Child Welfare.

She moved on to become an Office

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