



MDPQC

Parent and Baby Advisory Council

PBAC Vision

To foster a culture between patients, their families, and hospital staff that prioritizes a family-centered care approach in all maternal child health sectors.

PBAC Mission

To improve the quality of care and healthcare experiences of patients and their families by providing the community an opportunity to collaborate and share their experiences with hospitals, perinatal and neonatal care providers and community organizations.

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Patient and Baby Advisory Council Newsletter

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

1. The PBAC launched in January with its kickoff meeting.
2. PBAC members learned about the MDPQC, its past and present initiatives, and the members involved in the collaborative such as hospitals, local health departments and other community organizations.
3. PBAC members heard a presentation from the Maryland Department of Health, Maternal Child Health Bureau to learn more about the maternal health landscape.
4. The council had an open floor discussion and brainstorming sessions on the most pressing issues for patients and families.
5. PBAC members had an education session and discussion on patient and family-centered care.
6. The PBAC started outlining the first project to share with hospitals and community partners.

Why is the PBAC Important to Maryland Hospitals and Families?

1. The PBAC's focus is to ensure that all initiatives prioritize patient and family voices to improve patient experience of care, quality and safety of care and patient outcomes. For example, the PBAC can support hospitals in advocating for resources in multiple languages and in pictorial layouts.
2. The PBAC is working to ensure hospitals receive support with incorporating the patient and family voice into their hospital practices, policies and protocols. For example, PBAC members support hospitals by reviewing their materials with a patient and family engagement lens, identifying how these materials can be improved to emphasize the importance of patient and family engagement.

Meet Our PBAC Members



Dr. Marilyn Berchie-Gialamas

Dr. Marilyn Berchie-Gialamas is the Health Director and Founder of Trinity Wellness, an emerging medical concierge in Howard County, MD that provides prenatal and maternal health services and education to families and community health services to clients enrolled with Baltimore Healthy Start.

She is also a nurse educator and researcher at Morgan State University.

Her research projects include being a co-investigator of the Maternal Health Research Center at Morgan State University, as well primary investigator in the research project, Racial Disparities in Maternal Child Health and the Role of Doulas in Reducing Disparities. Her goal is to promote equity in healthcare and nursing education. She is a Howard County resident and mom and expecting her second baby in May 2024.



Dr. Joi Gaddy Egbuniwe

Dr. Joi Gaddy Egbuniwe has 10 years of experience helping pregnant and post partum patients get out of pain.

As a native of Columbia, MD, she recently returned and founded T[her]apy: The Center for Perinatal Wellness and Physical Therapy; an integrative practice focusing on the perinatal population by providing chiropractic, physical therapy, pelvic floor rehabilitation, lactation support, webster's technique for breech presentations, childbirth education, doula support and nutrition services all geared toward improving maternal and birth outcomes.

As a board-certified renowned authority in the field of perinatal chiropractic, physical therapy, functional and integrative medicine, Dr. Joi is developing innovative methods to address health concerns using a holistic perspective.

With a commitment to maternal and infant health, Dr. Joi and her team exemplifies how improving the perinatal and pregnant experience through therapies and education, can empower parents to be more active and yield greater outcomes. Dr. Joi is mom to three children, Saint, Grace and Love.



Kim Siegler

Kim Siegler moved from Pennsylvania to Maryland almost 20 years ago following her graduation from Penn State University. In 2010, Kim enrolled in the University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law's evening division, completing her law degree while working full time. She currently works for a local university.

Five days after her son's birth in 2018, Kim developed severe postpartum

preeclampsia and was hospitalized. With excellent medical care and support from her family and friends, Kim is now a mom to a happy and healthy five-year-old son. This experience greatly affected Kim's long-term health, both physically and mentally, and inspired her to become involved in the PBAC as a way to support new parents and families in Maryland.

Kim lives in Howard County with her husband, Brad, and son, Wesley.