



OFFICE OF WOMEN'S HEALTH

Steering Committee Meeting

September 12, 2025

9:30 am -11:30 am

Meeting Minutes



Attendees:

Katie Campbell
Amanda Martin
Jennifer Young
Lindsay Harris
Rosemary Cummings
Ashley Moore
Carrie Johnson
Janise Norman
Paige Parish
TJ Thrasher
Tracy Brown

Leigh Minchew
Tessa Strickland
Kimberly Gordon
Rebekah Smay
Amy McAfee
Brandi Jackson
Dr. Gilliam
Kasey Chance
Shanna McIntosh
Tana-Kae Lewis

Shalisa Gauntt
Molly Mims
Dr. Oyesiku
Dr. Pugh
Amy Lee
Carrie Henry
Elizabeth Sanders
Katrina Keefer
Sharon Holley
Crystalee Walters

Welcome/Visitors Recognition

Leigh Minchew

Visions & Mission, Folder Content Review

Leigh Minchew

Minutes Review & Approval

Leigh Minchew

- No corrections
- Motion to approve- Jennifer Young/Tessa Strickland

New Business

Leigh Minchew

- No new business

Directors' Report

Katie Campbell

- The Maternal Mortality Review Committee (MMRC) meeting is scheduled for next Friday, September 19th.
- The committee will be finishing up 2022 cases and starting on their review for 2023.
- The Fetal Infant Mortality Review (FIMR) program staff have been busy filming Clear the Crib challenges across the state to increase awareness of Safe Sleep. High schools, Colleges, and hospitals are participating. We will partner with ALPQC, which will also introduce safe sleep as one of its initiatives for hospitals next year.

- The FIMR report is complete and has been posted to the Alabama Department of Public Health (ADPH) Perinatal website.
- The FIMR program staff has been working with the ADPH EMS division regarding education and resources for EMS providers in an effort to improve maternal and fetal/infant outcomes.
- Fetal and Cardiac dopplers have been purchased for distribution to EMS providers throughout the state.
- From September to October, pinwheels will be placed in front of the RSA Tower. This is done each year to honor infant and fetal loss in Alabama.
- The FIMR team is working with the Sheriff's Departments and Coroners across the state to enhance the SUIDI (Sudden Unexplained Infant Death Investigation) completion on at-home infant deaths.
- The Well Woman Program is working on partnerships for physical activity resources in each county where Well Woman is available.
- Currently, WW is available in Butler, Barbour, Henry, Covington, Dallas, Marengo, Wilcox, Bullock, Lowndes, Macon, Montgomery, and Russell.
- The WW team is also working to continue to organize data collection with reports to pull pertinent visit information.

VitAL Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT)

Shanna McIntosh

- VitAL is a research, implementation, training, and education initiative aimed at improving the lives of Alabamians with mental health, substance misuse, and trauma-related challenges. Working with organizations across all 67 counties in the state of Alabama.
- SBIRT includes primary, secondary, and tertiary prevention opportunities for substance use disorders.
- Screening is used to assess the use and severity of alcohol and illicit drugs, as well as prescription drug misuse. Brief intervention is a three- to five-minute motivational awareness-raising session for individuals who identify as being at risk. Referral to treatment for specialty care for patients with a higher level of risk.
- SBIRT is an evidence-based public health approach that uses validated screening tools to identify, reduce, and prevent substance use before the onset of misuse or dependency. It improves outcomes for chronic diseases and contributes to the wellness of patients.
- The primary goal is to improve identify and effectively intervene with patients who are at risk for psychosocial or healthcare problems related to their substance use.
- AL- SBIRT model was approved by the Alabama Department of Mental Health (ADMH), ADPH, and Alabama Medicaid Agency (AMA).
- AL-SBIRT model screening is universal. This screening is going to offer an unbiased and proactive approach to addressing substance use and early intervention. Screening tools for alcohol use are US-Audit C for prescreening and US-Audit for full screening. Drugs use: Adapted NIDA Quick Screen for prescreening and DAST-10 for full screening. Nicotine uses the GATS Nicotine Screen for screening. Mental Health uses the PHQ-3 for prescreening and the PHQ-9 for full screening. Domestic violence uses the Intimate Partner Violence Assessment for screening. Based on the screening results from four different levels — low, mild, moderate, or high — we will determine the next step in service provision.
- AL-SBIRT interventions are brief interventions, brief treatment, and referral to treatment.
- Brief intervention is a conversation with the patient, timing is based on the needs of the patient, brief treatment focuses on stages of change, and the patient will meet a qualified

clinician to work with the patient to rebuild skills and develop a network and behavior change they need.

- Referral to treatment is with an outside provider whom you refer the patient to. VitAL can help with programs to develop relationships with providers, and the Connect Alabama app can be used to find providers for referrals. Patients identified at this level may need medication-assisted treatment, detox, inpatient, etc.
- AL-SBIRT tools and forms can be provided from prescreens, audit, DAST, PHQ-9, patient handouts, pocket card, and guide for providers, drug/alcohol/mental health pamphlets, and ongoing implementation support.
- SBIRT is brief, universal, targeted, adaptable, comprehensive, and effective.

Family Planning Contraceptives & Implants

Dr. Lynda Gilliam

- Family Planning offers a Pap smear and Colonoscopy Program, a robust Breast Cancer Screening Program, a Well Woman Program, and education for patients, nurse practitioners, and RNs. A physician is on call every day.
- Family Planning also screens for sexual coercion, domestic violence, sex trafficking, mental health, and family history of colon and breast cancer. Provide referrals when needed.
- Use MEC to screen patients to see what type of birth control is appropriate and how they can educate them to help decide what is their best contraceptive choice, and from a medical perspective, what is the safest for the patient to be on.
- Patients have access to free condoms in the clinic and emergency contraception Plan B or Ella up to 72 hours after intercourse.
- Traditional contraceptive methods provided are birth control pills (which can also be used for females with gynecologic issues), NuvaRing contraceptive ring, and the patch.
- Long-acting reversible contraceptives (LARC) methods provided are Nexplanon implant, IUDs (Kyleen, Mirena, Liletta, and Paragard), and Depo Shot.
- Family Planning Program had been recognized nationally by the National Academy of State Health Policy Conference. They are looking to model the program for other states.
- In the last 18 months, Family Planning has started a breast cancer screening program. When patients come in, they are screened, and if they score higher than 20% on the risk score, they are sent out for a referral for care. This includes genetic screening, advanced imaging, and, with the ABC program, MRIs and breast imaging.

Committee Reports:

Women's Health Conference Committee

Tessa Strickland

- Women's Health Conference is scheduled for March 13th. Looking for ideas and sponsors for the conference. Reach out to Tessa Strickland at 205-531-9122.

Wellness of Women Committee

Ashley Moore

- No request for speakers for events for women's health since the last meeting.
- If you need a speaker for a women's health event or community outreach, you can contact us at <https://www.alabamapublichealth.gov/womenshealth/women-on-wellness.html>
- Also, we are recruiting new speakers as well.

Maternal Health Policy Committee**Honour McDaniel**

- No new update.

Family Planning Advisory Committee**Leigh Minchew**

- No new update.

Acknowledgement

- We want to thank Leigh for everything she has contributed to this committee over the past 10 years. She has been the chair since 2016, and her leadership, guidance, and support have been essential to our achievements.
- Rosemary Cummings has been appointed as the new Chair for the OWH Steering Committee.

Meeting was adjourned by Leigh Minchew at 11:30 am.