



**Commonwealth of Kentucky
Cabinet for Health and Family Services**

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**Commonwealth launches Kentucky Perinatal Quality
Collaborative**

FRANKFORT, Ky. (October 22, 2019) - The Kentucky Perinatal Quality Collaborative (KyPQC) launched today during a convening at Churchill Downs in Louisville.

The launch brought together healthcare professionals and other stakeholders dedicated to decreasing the maternal mortality rate, decreasing rates of neonatal abstinence syndrome (NAS), and improving maternal and infant health outcomes in the commonwealth amidst the opioid crisis and other health issues.

The convening was a significant gathering of obstetricians, gynecologists, nurses, certified nurse midwives, pediatricians, neonatologists, and other healthcare professionals representing both for-profit and non-profit organizations, as well as healthcare systems.

"I see 2019 as a watershed moment for mothers and babies in Kentucky," said Dr. Connie White, Deputy Commissioner for Clinical Affairs in the Kentucky Department for Public Health.

"With Kentucky's newly operating comprehensive Maternal Mortality Review Committee evaluating every maternal death, and now the work of a statewide collaborative using data to drive evidence-based interventions all providers and delivery hospitals can

implement, the maternal child outcomes in Kentucky will change - this is an exciting time," said Dr. White.

Premature birth and its complications are the largest contributors to infant death in this country and globally.

"Perinatal morbidity and mortality are key indicators of a state's health status. The Kentucky Perinatal Quality Collaborative allows us to enhance our ability to improve outcomes for mothers and babies," said Dr. Angela Dearing, Commissioner for Kentucky's Department for Public Health.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), perinatal quality collaboratives can reduce preterm births, reduce severe pregnancy complications associated with high blood pressure and hemorrhage, improve identification of and care for infants with neonatal abstinence syndrome, reduce racial/ethnic and geographic disparities, and reduce cesarean births among low-risk pregnant women.

"We know medical care as well as decisions made by a mother during the perinatal period have lasting impacts on critical outcomes during the lifetime of both the mother and the child," said Adam Meier, Secretary for the Cabinet for Health and Family Services. "This collaborative is a great step for helping us to identify and share best practices to allow practitioners to more effectively engage these mothers and improve outcomes."

Kentucky joins several states that have an established perinatal quality collaborative.

Additional information is available at <http://chfs.ky.gov/>.

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The Cabinet for Health and Family Services is home to most of the state's human services and healthcare programs, including the Department for Medicaid Services, the Department for Community Based Services the Department for Public Health, the Department for Aging and Independent Living and the Department for Behavioral Health, Developmental and Intellectual Disabilities. CHFS is one of the largest agencies in state government, with nearly 8,000 full- and part-time employees located across the Commonwealth focused on improving the lives and health of Kentuckians.