

## **A Birth Center Primer for Hospital Leaders: Achieving Seamless Collaboration and Advancing Equity Through Community-Based Care**

### **Series Learning Objectives**

To fill knowledge gaps to promoting and expanding birth center-hospital collaboration

### **Session Structure (60 minutes)**

- I. Welcome, housekeeping, and speaker introductions (5 minutes)
- II. Structured overview of main concepts and reminders of guide content (15 mins)
- III. Facilitated discussion with speakers on topics (30 mins)
- IV. Questions (10 mins)

### **Session 1: Assessing Readiness and Centering Equity in Your Hospital's Birth Center Strategy**

#### **Friday, September 8 · 1:00pm – 2:30pm EST**

The panel includes the following experts and thought leaders:

- **Nashira Barril, MPH**; Director and Founder of Neighborhood Birth Center
- **Dr. Pooja Mehta MD, MSHP, FACOG**; Head of Women's Health, Cityblock Health, Boston Medical Center
- **Dr. Chris Morris, MD**; Chief Medical Officer at Diana Health
- **Amy Romano, MBA, MSN, CNM, FACNM**; Founder and CEO of Primary Maternity Care (facilitator)

In this 90-minute kickoff session, we will review the step-by-step approach to gathering information and analyzing potential barriers and facilitators to help determine which approach—partnership or ownership—makes the most sense for your health system. We will also look at how centering equity and engaging with community-based organizations and birth advocates can inform and strengthen your hospital's strategy.

#### *Learning Objectives:*

At the end of the session, learners will be able to:

1. Identify the importance and value of the freestanding birth center model and how integration with both the health system and the community improves outcomes and addresses health inequities
2. List at least 3 foundational elements of equitable and successful hospital-birth center integration
3. Identify stakeholders within their health systems and communities to engage in planning and implementing birth center integration activities
4. Select and use tools based on system's needs, priorities and readiness for birth center integration

### **Session 2: Developing Eligibility Criteria and Collaborative Care Guidelines**

#### **Wednesday, September 20 · 6:00-7:00pm EST**

The panel includes the following experts and thought leaders:

- **Holly Christensen, MSN, CNM**; Northern Light Mercy Hospital
- **Dr. Nikia Grayson, DNP, MSN, MPH, MA, CNM, FNP-C**; Chief Clinical Officer at CHOICES Center for Reproductive Health
- **Dr. Chris Morris, MD**; Chief Medical Officer at Diana Health
- **Brynn Rubinstein, MPH**; Consultant, Primary Maternity Care (co-facilitator)
- **Amy Romano, MBA, MSN, CNM, FACNM**; Founder and CEO of Primary Maternity Care (co-facilitator)

This session reviews the essential components to build a strong foundation for successful collaboration among hospital and birth center providers to improve perinatal health outcomes and patient experience. Participants will identify the barriers and facilitators to achieving optimal collaboration within their facilities and then practice using tools to help strengthen their birth center eligibility and collaboration guidelines.

*Learning Objectives:*

At the end of the session, learners will be able to:

1. Articulate the benefits of written eligibility criteria and collaborative care guidelines
2. Discuss barriers and facilitators to effective midwife-physician collaboration and team-based care imposed by structural and systemic factors
3. Describe how collaboration helps hospitals deliver respectful care and implement anti-racist policies to support optimal outcomes for people accessing community-based care
4. Use a templated tool to establish and document eligibility criteria for midwifery-led care in various care settings including the freestanding birth center and hospital
- 5.

*Tools Reviewed:*

PMC Birth Center Eligibility and Collaborative Care Guidelines

### **Session 3: Designing Transport Workflows and Maximizing Collaboration Across Facilities**

**Tuesday, October 3 1:00 – 2:00pm EST**

The panel includes the following experts and thought leaders:

- **Melissa Denmark, MA, LM;** Smooth Transitions
- **Julie Moon, CNM, APRN;** AABC Birth Center-Focused Neonatal Resuscitation Program
- **Dr. Tim Fisher, M.D., M.H.C.D.S.;** Dartmouth, NNEPQIN
- **Becca Amirault, WHNP, CNM;** UCSF Health
- **Jen Johnson, MS, CNM;** Jefferson Health, Consultant Primary Maternity Care (Co-Facilitator)
- **Amy Romano, MBA, MSN, CNM, FACNM;** Founder and CEO of Primary Maternity Care (Co-Facilitator)

*Learning Objectives:*

1. Assess existing systems and infrastructure necessary to support facility-to-facility transfer within the health system, including local emergency transport services.
2. Identify unique elements of perinatal transfers of birthing or postpartum people, newborns, and dyads.
3. Develop strategies to support respect and dignity for patients experiencing transfer from community birth.
4. Use a templated tool to create specific workflows for both urgent and non-urgent antenatal, intrapartum, postpartum, and newborn transfers between facilities.

*Tools Reviewed:*

PMC Template: Hospital-Birth Center Transfer Agreement

PMC Template: Birth Center Checklists

PBGH Resource: Maternity Transfer Planning Template

Smooth Transitions suite of resources

## **Session 4: Beyond Transfer: Exploring Financial, Programmatic, and Administrative Integration Between Birth Centers and Hospitals**

**Thursday, October 19 · 2:00 – 3:00pm EST**

The panel includes the following experts and thought leaders:

- **Ashley Couse, INHC, CBE, CD;** Vanderbilt Birth Center / VUMC
- **Dr. Richard Thigpen, MD, FACOG;** Vanderbilt University Medical Center
- **Leseliey Welch, MPH, MBA;** Birth Center Equity, Birth Detroit
- **Steven Hall, MBA;** Babymoon Inn Birth Center
- **Brynn Rubinstein, MPH;** Consultant, Primary Maternity Care (Co-facilitator)
- **Claudia Jennings;** Administrative, Billing and Operations Specialist Primary Maternity Care (Co-facilitator)

*Learning Objectives:*

1. Identify potential revenue and efficiency opportunities from deeper integration with community birth providers and facilities, including referral volume, marketing or education/outreach integration, and grant opportunities.
2. Articulate ways hospitals can use their power to promote sustainability and safety of community birth options.
3. Discuss trends in value-based care initiatives that integrate community-based services and providers.

## **Session 5: Preventing and Learning From Sentinel Events**

**Monday, October 30 · 3:00pm – 4:00pm EST**

The panel includes the following experts and thought leaders:

- **Dr. Susan Stapleton, CNM, DNP, FACNM;** Commission for the Accreditation of Birth Centers
- **Melissa Denmark, MA, LM;** Smooth Transitions
- **Dr. Tim Fisher, MD, MHCDS;** NNEPQIN
- **Alexa Dougherty MSN, CNM;** Clinical Operations Specialist Primary Maternity Care (Facilitator)

*Learning Objectives:*

1. Articulate the Commission for the Accreditation of Birth Centers (CABC) definition of sentinel event and describe related reporting requirements for accredited birth centers.
2. Access American Association of Birth Center (AABC) consensus standards for birth center continuous quality improvement, patient safety, and emergency preparedness.
3. Interpret trends and implications from data reported to CABC about sentinel events in accredited birth centers.
4. Discuss ways hospitals can collaborate with birth centers to minimize sentinel events and support system improvement and team resilience when sentinel events do occur.

*Tools Reviewed:*

- AABC National Standards
- CABC Accreditation Program

## Session 6: Planning and Conducting Effective Emergency Drills for Community Birth

Monday, November 13: 4:00 – 5:00pm

The panel includes the following experts and thought leaders:

- **Amy Romano, MBA, MSN, CNM, FACNM**; Founder and CEO of Primary Maternity Care
- **Jen Johnson, MS, CNM**; Jefferson Health, Consultant Primary Maternity Care
- **Sarah Stetina, MSN, CNM**; Director of Midwifery-Burr Ridge Birth Center
- **Alexa Dougherty MSN, CNM**; Clinical Operations Specialist Primary Maternity Care (Facilitator)

*Learning Objectives:*

1. Articulate the importance of clinical drills and simulations to support emergency preparedness in community birth settings.
2. List ways hospitals can support effective emergency preparedness activities for birth centers, including participation in drills and simulations.
3. Review the benefits and limitations of small-group, full-team, and cross-facility drills.
4. Discuss methods for debriefing drill experiences and leveraging them for improved teamwork and safety.

*Tools Reviewed:*

- Step Up Together Action Collaborative (Development in Progress)
- Step Up Together Drill Implementation Kit (Development in Progress)