
**Report to
The Vermont Legislature**

**Maternal Mortality Review Panel:
Findings and Recommendations**

**In Accordance with Act 35 (2011), Section 2(c)
*An Act Relating to Insurance Coverage for
Midwifery Services and Home Births***

Submitted to: Senate Committee on Health and Welfare
House Committee on Health Care
House Committee on Human Services

Submitted by: Tracy Dolan
Acting Commissioner, Vermont Department of Health

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Vermont Department of Health

Report Date: December 12, 2014

Maternal Mortality Review Panel: Findings and Recommendations

December 12, 2015

Introduction

In November 2011, the Maternal Mortality Review Panel (MMRP) was established by Act 35. The purpose of the Panel is to conduct comprehensive, multidisciplinary reviews of maternal deaths in Vermont for the purposes of identifying factors associated with the deaths and to make recommendations for system changes to improve health care services for women in Vermont.

MMRP Actions During 2014

MMRP Panel: The Panel held its 2014 meeting on November 5, 2014. A list of participating members appears at the end of this report.

Description of Adverse Events: During its 2014 meeting, the MMRP reviewed the one case of maternal death during the preceding 12 months period of October 1, 2013 through September 30, 2014. The death was pregnancy-associated but not pregnancy-related, with a pregnancy confirmed by beta HCG blood test but with no intra-uterine evidence of pregnancy. The cause of the death was Acute Mixed (Fentanyl and Hydrocodone) Intoxication. Substance abuse was a common issue for the three maternal deaths in 2013.

Corrective Action Plans for 2014: None

Recommendations for System Change: Efforts to address substance abuse as a public health issue should be continued. Other system changes may emerge during future investigation work outlined in the newly adopted administrative rules.

Status of Rule-Making

Administrative rules for the maternal mortality review panel were adopted on July 3, 2014. They can be accessed at:

http://www.healthvermont.gov/regs/documents/maternal_mortality_review_panel_rule.pdf

2014 Panel Membership

<u>Name</u>	<u>Affiliation</u>	<u>Email address</u>	<u>Term</u>
Present at November 5, 2014			
Breana Holmes, MD MCH Division Director	Dept of Health	Breana.holmes@state.vt.us	3
Eleanor Capeless, MD Professor, Dept of OB/GYN & Reproductive Sciences	Fletcher Allen Health Care	Eleanor.capeless@uvm.edu	3
Ellie Kenworthy	Member of the public	ekenworthy4@comcast.net	3
Janet Kaplan, LM Licensed Midwife Certified Nurse-Midwife and APRN	Timbrel Farmstead Home Midwifery	jkmidwyfe@gmail.com	3
Marjorie Meyer, MD Associate Professor, Dept of OBGYN & Reproductive Sciences	Fletcher Allen Health Care	majorie.meyer@uvm.edu	3
Adrienne Woike, NP Perinatal Quality Improvement Nurse	VT Child Health Improvement	adrienne.woike@uvm.edu	3
Martha Redpath, MSN Certified Nurse-Midwife and APRN	Tapestry Midwifery	mredpath@portermedical.org	4
Peggy Brozicevic Epidemiologist	Dept of Health	peggy.brozicevic@state.vt.us	3
Stacey Sigmon, PhD Associate Professor Community Mental Health	UVM Dept of Psychiatry	stacey.sigmon@uvm.edu	3

Steven Shapiro, MD Chief Medical Examiner	Dept of Health	steven.shapiro@state.vt.us	2
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Absent from November 4, 2014 meeting:

Charles Mercier, MD Neonatologist	Fletcher Allen Health Care	charles.mercier@uvm.edu	2
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James Malcolm, MD Chief of Obstetrics	Addison Associates in OB/GYN	jmalcolm@portermedical.org	4
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Martha Redpath, MSN Certified Nurse-Midwife and APRN	Tapestry Midwifery	mredpath@portermedical.org	4
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