

## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

### National Institutes of Health

#### National Institute of Dental & Craniofacial Research; Notice of Closed Meeting

Pursuant to section 1009 of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended, notice is hereby given of the following meeting.

The meeting will be closed to the public in accordance with the provisions set forth in sections 552b(c)(4) and 552b(c)(6), Title 5 U.S.C., as amended. The grant applications and the discussions could disclose confidential trade secrets or commercial property such as patentable material, and personal information concerning individuals associated with the grant applications, the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy.

*Name of Committee:* National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research; Special Grants Review Committee.

*Date:* February 22–23, 2024.

*Time:* 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

*Agenda:* To review and evaluate grant applications.

*Place:* National Institute of Dental & Craniofacial Research, 6701 Democracy Blvd., Bethesda, MD 20892 (Virtual Meeting).

*Contact Person:* Thomas John O'Farrell, Ph.D., Scientific Review Officer, Scientific Review Branch, Division of Extramural Activities, National Institute of Dental & Craniofacial Research, 6701 Democracy Blvd., Bethesda, MD 20892, 301-402-8559, [tom.ofarrell@nih.gov](mailto:tom.ofarrell@nih.gov).

(Catalogue of Federal Domestic Assistance Program No. 93.121, Oral Diseases and Disorders Research, National Institutes of Health, HHS)

Dated: January 4, 2024.

**Lauren A. Fleck,**

*Program Analyst, Office of Federal Advisory Committee Policy.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

### Solicitation for Public Comments on Questions From the Task Force on Maternal Mental Health

**AGENCY:** Office on Women's Health, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health, Office of the Secretary; Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)

**ACTION:** Notice of request for information

**SUMMARY:** The Task Force on Maternal Mental Health (Task Force), which is being implemented as a subcommittee of the SAMHSA Advisory Committee for Women's Services (ACWS), solicits public comments on a set of questions concerning the context, policies, effectiveness, promising practices, and limitations and gaps related to prevention and treatment of maternal mental health conditions and substance use disorders (inclusive of alcohol use/misuse) and its complications. The Task Force is required to solicit public comments, as appropriate, from stakeholders for the purposes of developing a report that analyzes and evaluates the state of maternal mental health programs at the Federal level and identifies best practices with respect to maternal mental health and substance use disorders as well as a national strategy for improving maternal mental health. The taskforce will be highlighting recommendations that fall within the pregnancy and postpartum (up to 1 year after birth) periods for individuals with or at risk for mental health and substance use conditions.

**DATES:** Electronic or written/paper comments will be accepted through midnight eastern standard time (EST) January 31, 2024.

**ADDRESSES:** The set of questions is available in the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section below. Public comments can be submitted in the following ways:

- Electronic submissions can be filed online at <http://www.regulations.gov> by following the "Instructions for Public Comments" section below. Comments submitted electronically, including attachments, will be posted to the docket unchanged. Evidence and information supporting your comment can be submitted as attachments. Please provide your contact information or organization name on the web-based form for follow up by the Task Force.

- If you prefer to comment on paper, mail your comment to the following address: 5600 Fishers Lane, Suite 18E01, Rockville, MD 20857. For mailed submissions, OWH/SAMHSA will post your comment, as well as any attachments, to <http://www.regulations.gov>.

*Docket:* For access to the docket to read background documents or the electronic and written/paper comments received, go to <https://www.regulations.gov> and insert the docket ID into the "Search" box and follow the prompts.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Valerie Kolick, Designated Federal Officer, Advisory Committee for

Women's Services, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, 5600 Fishers Lane, Suite 18E01, Rockville, MD 20857. Phone: 240-276-1738 or Email: [valerie.kolick@samhsa.hhs.gov](mailto:valerie.kolick@samhsa.hhs.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Section 1113 of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023 (Pub. L. 117-328) requires the HHS Secretary to establish a Task Force on Maternal Mental Health or incorporate the duties, public meetings, and reports specified into existing relevant Federal committees or working groups. The Task Force consists of representatives of specific federal agencies and non-federal individuals and entities who represent diverse disciplines and views. The Task Force will evaluate and make recommendations to the ACWS for further deliberation regarding improvements and coordination for Federal activities that address maternal mental health and co-occurring substance use disorders. The ACWS will make final recommendations to the Secretary of Health and Human Services and to Congress.

The Task Force invites members of the public to comment on any issues or concerns they believe are relevant or appropriate to the state of maternal mental health programs at the Federal level, and identification of best practices with respect to maternal mental health and substance use. Specifically, the Task Force requests public comment on the following questions:

1. Data, Research and Quality Improvement:

- What are the priority outcomes for pregnant and postpartum individuals with substance use disorder and/or mental health conditions?
- How would you define quality care for pregnant and postpartum individuals with substance use disorders and/or mental health conditions?

- What are the priority research questions and gaps related to maternal substance use disorder and/or mental health conditions that must be addressed to improve services and outcomes for individuals while pregnant and postpartum?

2. Prevention, Screening and Diagnosis:

- What is lacking and what is working to support maternal emotional health, and substance use and well-being during pregnancy and after?
- What steps should be taken to ensure that approaches to detecting maternal emotional health issues and substance use challenges are culturally appropriate?