Agenda: 2026 Maternity Care Quality and Safety Forum

April 1 from 8am – 4:30pm at the UNC Friday Center

NORTH CAROLINA HEALTHCARE FOUNDATION

The North Carolina Healthcare Foundation is hosting a one-day maternal health patient safety and quality forum for hospital members. The forum will feature solution-oriented content - see the agenda below for topics and speakers. The target audience for this forum is maternal health and emergency department clinicians, anesthesia providers, leaders in performance improvement, quality, and safety, accreditation officers, risk management leaders, and executive hospital leaders and their board members.

8:00 - 8:30 | Registration, Refreshments, Vendor Expo

8:30 - 8:45 | Opening Remarks – Dr. LaPonda Edmondson, President, NCHF

8:45 - 9:30 | Plenary Keynote: "State of the State" - Overview of Current Maternal Health Landscape in NC

Tara Owens Shuler, NCDHHS

Session objectives:

- Describe where to access and how to interpret North Carolina maternal health data.
- Describe statewide priorities as they relate to maternity care and maternal health.
- Discuss strategies for integrating statewide data into the design and delivery of maternity care.

9:30 - 10:15 | Panel Discussion: Maternal Health Patient-Family Voice to Improve Clinical Performance

Ushma Patel, Sue Deaton, Jessica Noble, Angela Still, and Ann Smith

Session objectives:

- Describe the value of integrating patient and family voice in maternity care.
- List at least two strategies to involve patients and families in the design of performance improvement initiatives and workflows.
- Describe the core components of an effective Patient Family Advisory Council (PFAC).

10:15 - 10:30 | Break and Vendor Visits

10:30 - 11:15 | Transitions of Care Best Practices

I-PASS - Dr. Chris Landrigan and Theresa Murray

Session objectives:

- Discuss the safety risks for patients at points of intra- and inter-hospital transitions.
- Describe at least two strategies to ensure good communication between providers at transition points.
- Describe necessary staff competencies to ensure safe, consistent transitions.
- Describe how patients and their families need to be included in ensuring safe transitions.

11:15 - 11:45 | Overview of Maternal Health Workforce Challenges

Patricia T. Campbell, March of Dimes

Session objectives:

- Describe top maternal workforce challenges facing rural North Carolina
- Discuss root causes of maternal workforce challenges impacting rural North Carolina.
- Describe activities at the state level to support resolution of these challenges.

11:45 - 1:00 | Lunch and Vendor Expo

1:00 - 1:45 | Roundtable Activity: Potential Solutions To Maternal Health Workforce Challenges

Facilitated by NCHF

Break-out group activity to facilitate shared learning of strategies happening at the hospital level to identify and address maternal care workforce challenges within North Carolina communities.

1:45 - 2:30 | Panel Discussion: Best Practices in Caring for Birthing Persons with Substance Use Disorders

Melinda Ramage, Hilary Beeler, Dr. Hendrée Jones, Jen Bailey

Session objectives:

- Describe current data trends in the incidence of SUD in birthing people in NC.
- Describe the most common barriers and challenges for birthing people with SUD across the maternity care continuum.
- Discuss evidence-based best practices to improve care access and health outcomes for this population.
- Discuss the value of involving patients and families in the planning and implementation of interventions.

2:30 - 2:45 | Break and Vendor Visits

2:45 - 3:30 | Best Practices in Caring for Birthing Persons with Cardiac Conditions

Dr. Kardie Tobb, Cone Health

Session objectives:

- Describe current data trends in the incidence of cardiac conditions in birthing people in NC.
- Describe challenges and barriers to care access for birthing people across the maternity care continuum as it relates to cardiac conditions.
- Discuss evidence-based best practices to improve care access and health outcomes for this population.
- Discuss the value of involving patients and families in the planning and implementation of interventions.

3:30 - 4:30 | Closing Keynote: Future of Maternity Care – The Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools in Maternal Health Quality Improvement

Duke Health - Sophia Bessias and Dr. Armando Bedoya

Session objectives:

- Describe common strategies and practical examples of how hospitals are employing AI for effective and safe maternity care.
- Describe best practices for effectively managing the life cycle of AI tools used for maternity care to mitigate risks in patient safety and care access.
- Describe how patients and their families can participate in AI life cycle management to support safe, efficient care.

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