



**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**

**NC Early Childhood Advisory Council
December 6, 2019
1 - 4 pm
NC Department of Transportation Board Room**

- 1:00 Welcome to members and special guests.
Conflict of interest reminder and approval of September meeting notes.
Dr. Mandy Cohen, Secretary, NC DHHS
- 1:10 General updates
Secretary Cohen
Susan G. Perry, Chief Deputy Secretary, NC DHHS
- 1:20 Early Childhood Action Plan (ECAP) updates
Rebecca Planchard, Senior Early Childhood Policy Advisor, NC DHHS
- 1:30 Introduction of speakers
Secretary Cohen
- 1:35 An overview of North Carolina's infant mortality data trends and current state and local efforts to address maternal health and infant mortality
Belinda Pettiford, Branch Head, Women's Health
Division of Public Health, NC DHHS

Kathleen Jones-Vessey, MCH Epidemiologist
Division of Public Health, NC DHHS
- 2:00 Perspectives on racial equity and reducing the infant mortality disparity ratio
Keisha L. Bentley-Edwards, PhD
Assistant Professor of Medicine
Associate Director of Research, Samuel DuBois Cook Center on Social Equity
Duke University
- 2:30 Break

- 2:45 A national look at maternal health and infant mortality and the effects of Medicaid expansion
Adam Searing, JD, MPH
Research Professor
Georgetown University McCourt School of Public Policy
Center for Children and Families
- 3:30 Dialogue with Council members and presenters. What are the opportunities for North Carolina to make more substantial progress to decrease the statewide infant mortality disparity ratio? What are some additional recommendations for executive, legislative, and/or philanthropic actions?
- 4:00 Adjourn

Ethics Awareness and Conflict of Interest Reminder

In accordance with the State Government Ethics Act, it is the duty of every Council member to avoid both conflicts of interest and the appearances of conflicts of interest. If any Council member has any known conflict of interest or is aware of facts that might create the appearance of such conflict, with respect to any matters coming before the Council today, please identify the conflict or the facts that might create the appearance of a conflict to ensure that any inappropriate participation in that matter may be avoided. If at any time, any new matter raises a conflict during the meeting, please be sure to identify it at that time.