Unsplash photo credit: Engin Akyurt

# POSTNATAL CARE IN A PANDEMIC WEBINAR SERIES:

Supporting Perinatal Mental Health Part #2

Nov 25, 2020



Champlain Maternal Newborn Regional Program Programme régional des soins à la mère et au nouveau-né de Champlain



- To learn about priority concerns related to perinatal mental health, identified through the CMNRP postnatal care rapid response data collection.
- To develop awareness about available mental health resources in the region.
- To describe features of innovative mental health initiatives in the region.
- To identify tips and tricks for providing virtual mental health counselling and support.



#### CHAMPLAIN MATERNAL NEWBORN REGIONAL PROGRAM PROGRAMME RÉGIONAL DES SOINS À LA MÈRE

ET AU NOUVEAU-NÉ DE CHAMPLAIN

#### VISION

Achieving the best health outcomes for childbearing families in Eastern and South Eastern Ontario.

#### MISSION

We will optimize pregnancy, birth and postnatal outcomes as a foundation for a healthy population through partnerships and collaboration, and by building a high quality system of care across the perinatal continuum





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#### COVID-19

#### About Us 🗄

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- Our Partners
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- Professional Development
- Ways to Engage
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- ▶ For Families
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- Family Advisory Committee

# WHAT IS THE NEED THAT IS NOT BEING MET?

Purpose of the CMNRP Postnatal Care Rapid Response Taskforce





## **Postnatal Care Rapid Response Taskforce Members**

<b>Dr. Daisy Moores co-lead,</b> Family Physician, Head, Division of Maternal and Newborn Care, The Ottawa Hospital	<b>Jennifer Theriault,</b> Early Years Coordinator / Health Promoter, Centretown Community Health Centre
Christina Cantin co-lead, Perinatal Consultant, CMNRP	Jenny Vandemeer, Public Health Nurse, Leeds Grenville and Lanark Health Unit
<b>Amanda DeGrace,</b> Parent Experience Advisor, CMNRP Family Advisory Committee	Keri-Ann Berga, Perinatal Consultant, CMNRP
Brittany Martin, Community Health Nurse, Algonquins of Pikwakanagan	Louise Gilbert, Clinical Nurse Specialist, Healthy Growth and Development, Ottawa Public Health
<b>Colleen Musclow,</b> Temporary Manager, Healthy Families, Renfrew County and District Health Unit	<b>Marilyn Crabtree,</b> Family Physician / Family Health Organization Lead, Winchester District Memorial Hospital
<b>Diane Lalonde,</b> Program Manager, HBHC and Family Health, Eastern Ontario Health Unit	<b>Rachael Jaffray,</b> Registered Nurse, Childbirth Centre, Queensway-Carleton Hospital
Elaine Jeffries, Clinical Resource Nurse Specialist Maternal Newborn Care, Weeneebayko Area Health Authority	Robyn Berman, Registered Midwife, The Ottawa Hospital/Midwifery Collective of Ottawa
<b>Erin Shaheen,</b> Childbirth Educator / Doula, Ottawa Childbirth Education Association	<b>Stephanie Simchison</b> , Registered Nurse, Wabano Centre for Aboriginal Health
<b>Jenna Aubry,</b> Registered Nurse / Clinical Care Leader Mother-Baby Unit, The Ottawa Hospital-General Campus	<b>Sonya Boersma,</b> Private Practice Lactation Consultant, Lactation Care



### A Model for Evidence-Informed Decision Making in Public Health



evidence-informed decision in public health

https://www.nccmt.ca/tools/eiph

Postnatal Care/Support Data	Pre-COVID Implementation			tion	Current Situation***			Limitations and Barriers Experienced
Indicator	Please identify the extent to which your				Please speci	Please specify your current care. If applicable, describe strategies		
	org	anization	has implement	ted the	that you have implemented or are considering to solve			
	postn	atal stand	ards (place an	"x" in the	challenges, r	educe barriers, and improve access (e.g. r		
	-	approp	priate column)		provided, so	heduling of patients and/or delivery meth		
					virtual/ telephone).			
	Fully	Partially	Under	Not	Service	Service modified	Service fully	Yes, please describe
			consideration	applicable	suspended		operational	
Jaundice & Hyperbilirubinemia								
Screening*								
24-72 hours of life, if not indicated								
earlier, via TSB or TcB								
Newborn Bloodspot Testing*								
24-48 hours of life, and sent to								
NSO via courier within 24 hours of								
collection.								
Pulse Oximetry Screening for								
Critical Congenital Heart Disease*								
24-48 hours of life.								
Infant Hearing Screening*								
Prior to hospital d/c or referral to								
community program.								
Newborn Exam- Initial*								
Within 24 hours of birth.								
Newborn Exam- Follow-up*								
Within 24-72 hours after discharge								
from hospital OR if out of hospital								
birth, within 24-72 hours of the first								
complete physical exam. Includes								
newborn weight check.								
Breastfeeding Initiation*								
Uninterrupted skin-to-skin								
immediately following birth for at								
least 1 hour or until completion of								
first feeding.								



## Priority Concerns





- Given the challenging times that COVID has created we need to put more attention towards our teaching on maternal mental health and the available resources in the community. (Hospital respondent)
- With no in person programming available at this time, parents do not have the same opportunities to create support networks with others. They have fewer opportunities to share their experiences or chance to learn from one another. (Community respondent)
- Virtual programming is not the same as in-person contact. It is much more challenging to build a trusting relationship with clients so that they feel comfortable enough to open up about challenges they are facing. (Community respondent)
- One doctor was offering PP Depression Group sessions. There is a need for more of this and I believe offering these groups prenatally would be key. Working on selfconfidence, self-care, relaxation methods all building up to building attachment with their unborn child would be better than simply offering support postnatally. (Public health respondent)
- Increase knowledge of mental health for new mothers and how to manage ideal expectations in this new period. (Hospital respondent)

- Charlotte Maloney, Chair CMNRP Family Advisory Committee
- Gillian Szollos, BA, Family Support Community Worker/Health Promoter, Carlington Community Health Centre, Ottawa
- Dr. Stéphanie C. Boyer, Ph.D., C.Psych., Psychologist, The Psychology Clinic at Queen's Director, Perinatal Mental Health Service; Department of Psychology, Queen's University
- Dr. Jasmine Gandhi, MD, Program Leader, Perinatal Mental Health, The Ottawa Hospital-General Campus; Faculty of Medicine, Department of Psychiatry, Assistant Professor, UOttawa

**Q & A Moderator** 

Keri-Ann Berga, Perinatal Consultant, CMNRP

# CHARLOTTE MALONEY

Chair CMNRP Family Advisory Committee

# GILLIAN SZOLLOS, BA

Family Support Worker/ Health Promoter Carlington Community Health Centre

# Virtual Parent Support

Facebook Search : Ottawa Prenatal Breastfeeding Support



Community Health Centre Centre de santé communautaire



- To be responsive to the needs of new parents during a time of severe reductions in access to services
- Rapid information dissemination during a period of hourly changes in service availability
- Facilitate access to information and services
- Group parenting sessions are offered covering topics such as breastfeeding, sleep, crying, safety, maternal mental health, infant behavior and development, prenatal preparation and resources, responsive parenting, nighttime parenting etc.
- Files section and announcements section
- Individual parent support

" It really helped me to gain

"I really looked forward to the sessions,

it was something to pin my week to."

confidence for the first days of breastfeeding my newborn.

It was also really cool to see the other participants start to have their babies, and hear about their experiences."

"The information in the Zoom sessions was relevant and tailored to the participants in the session."

*"I feel I have received more services/contact during COVID then if we were not in a pandemic."* 

## Survey Results- Demographics

- There were 54 virtual parenting sessions with 469 participants
- 100% of participants were pregnant or parenting their first baby
- Participants were from all across the region
- Over 50% of participants attended at least one session with their partner
- Once clients came to the sessions, they stayed-even when their children passed the three-month stage.
- Nearly half of the respondents had also asked for one-on-one support outside of the sessions

**100%** report that they have gained knowledge on infant/child development **96%** report that they have gained confidence in parenting 88% report a sense of increased wellness from participating in the zoom set 88% report a sense of decreased anxiety from participating in the zoom ses 87% report an increase in knowledge around responsive parenting **80%** report having changed their parenting behaviors to be more responsive 61% report that they have a stronger sense of community since joining the Facebook group 82% report knowing about more regional services, including breastfeeding support, since joining this Facebook group 28 responses **54%** have accessed services they learned about in this group

**14%** agree to have made other parent friends in this group

"My anxiety has reduced because I'm regularly reminded that I deserve help. Yes, I could do everything and I'd become very sick and my parenting/ relationships would suffer as a result. But I'm regularly reminded that this is hard and I don't have to bear it alone".





## Recommendations

"This group helps remind me that no one knows it all and everyone is learning as they go and that is normal"

- Over 50% clients are attending sessions with a partner. This is significant as it is optimal to be able to message both partners. It is also important to make sure the content is created and delivered in such a way as to be inclusive of partners and engage them.
- 14% of clients report not having any ongoing close support. This must be taken into consideration when programming and engaging through parent support groups. Additional effort should be placed towards identifying negative maternal mental health and providing resources, outreach services and referral.
- Participants requested expanded information (3-6 month and 6-12 months) and more availability after 4 pm. We recommend expanding the virtual platform to provide significantly improved access to support and resources in collaboration with other community stakeholders as it is clear that this platform reduces significant barriers to families parenting through early infancy (transportation, fatigue, support, weather etc.) irrespective of a pandemic scenario.
- Although all participants surveyed felt confident using the social media and zoom platforms we recommend adding a question to the general Carlington client survey that asks specifically about program accessibility through Facebook /Zoom.
- Clients are very clear that they would like this form of online support to continue even after the pandemic as it reduces barriers to support all new parents face.

#### VIRTUAL PARENT SUPPORT PROGRAM SURVEY RESULTS

Thank you to all who participated



100 % OF YOU ARE **PREGNANT OR PARENTING** FOR THE FIRST TIME & WOULD RECOMMEND THIS **GROUP TO OTHERS** 







95%





OF YOU REPORT LOWER ANXIETY AND A GREATER SENSE OF WELLBEING FROM COMMING TO THE SESSIONS



**OF YOU SAID THAT YOU** WERE MORE RESPONSIVE **PARENTS AS A RESULT OF** THE SESSIONS

## Together Apart

### Carlington CHC Covid 19 Virtual Parent Support Initiative 2020

breastfeeding opportunity willingness Supportive Targeted participants content time regular online tailored presentations love online t facilitator EarlySupport ask needs informative Parentir specific Shelp session parents Informal confident Tuesdays sessions fantastic Information

#### **Gillian Szollos**

Family Support Worker/Health Promoter Parent-Child and Youth Services, **Carlington Community Health Centre** 

With assistance from Ottawa University Nursing students: Mpendulo Moyo, Kristen Martelock, Aimy Nauven, Mackenzie Vermilyea, Lauren Baker, Rebecca Neto

### **THANK YOU** FOR PARTICIPATING



**7** Stories



Photo used with permission

"This virtual program has facilitated a sense of

this time of the COVID-19 pandemic."

DEMOGRAPHICS

OUTCOMES

RN report that they have gained confidence in parenting

% agree to have made other parent friends in this grou

"I really looked forward to the session

it was something to pin my week to.

% would recommend the group to others

IRX report a sense of increased wellness from participation in th

IN report a sense of decreased amietu from participations in the s

unity and reduced my sense of isolation durin



#### Covid-19 Virtual Parent Support Initiative 2020

Reducing Anxiety and Isolation While Imporving Outcomes for New Parents Pregnant or Parenting Infants Under 3 Months

merging COVID-19 Pandemic. In response, Carlington Con

#### METHODOLOGY

ere gathered through Facebook and Zoom session from the period of April 1<sup>st</sup> to November 3<sup>st</sup> 2020 ling to share personal stories were interviewed and a shared in the evaluation renort.

argeted Zoom

ParentingSupport MoreConfidence sessions

#### **KEY FINDINGS & RECOMMENDATIONS** atisfaction was reported. Clients are happ

they have been receiving and the platforms used to share information/ suppo parenting confidence, improved sense of well being and increased sense of

sevelopment and the majority of those surveyed said that they had change parenting practices to be more responsive towards their infants. Over 50% clients are attending sessions with a partner. This is significant as it i ontimal to be able to message both partners. It is also important to make sure th

content is created and delivered in such a way as to be inclusive of partners and 14% of clients report not having any ongoing close support. This must be take

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CONCLUSION

rents including prenatal classes, face to face primary care, Ottawa Public Health Family visiting, visits by public health nurses and face to face visits with Lactation Consultants. Carlington has effectively contributed to filling this gap with this virtual approach to parent support. This program has succeeded in reducing the novel coronavirus pandemic. This program has exceeded expectations and ha newborn often entails. The participants reported improved knowledge and infidence as well as reduced isolation and anxiety. They also highlight profound changes in their parenting behavior towards being more responsiv



# DR. STÉPHANIE C. BOYER, PH.D., C.PSYCH.

Director, Perinatal Mental Health Service The Psychology Clinic At Queen's University

## Development of our Perinatal Mental Health Service

- Psychology Training Clinic
  - Assessment, consultation and treatment services for children, adolescents, and adults
  - All services offered on sliding scale geared to income (including % pro bono)
- Funded by Bell Let's Talk Community Fund
- Service Pathway:



## Cognitive-Behavioural Therapy (CBT) for Perinatal Anxiety

- Adapted from treatment protocol at St. Joseph's Healthcare (Green, 2015, 2020)
- 6-week transdiagnostic group program for new and expecting mothers
- Structured intervention to develop coping skills for anxiety and worry
- Pre-post data shows significant decreases in cognitive and somatic symptoms of anxiety, depressive symptoms, and level of perceived stress

Feedback survey questions (rated from 1 to 5)	M (SD)
How would you rate the quality of service you received?	4.89 (0.33)
Do you feel that your coping skills for anxiety have improved since the beginning of the group?	4.56 (0.72)
Did you feel the group leaders gave you enough personal attention?	4.78 (0.44)
Did you feel that the group leaders were warm and accepting of your concerns?	5.00 (0.00)

## Reflections on Shift to a Virtual Service Delivery Model

- Apart and feeling present and connected
- Need for increased communication and supports
- Creating a private space at home
- Optimal group size



## Where do we go from here?

- Prevention and early intervention => Perinatal adjustment and wellness
- Community Foundation for Kingston and Area Grant: Building Family Resilience Through Parent Mental Health (2021)
  - Virtual **Postpartum Adjustment Group:** 6-week group, focused on education and support around changes and difficulties during this transition period to facilitate well-being and self-care
  - Virtual educational outreach sessions for new and expecting parents on supporting emotional wellness during this transition period



# DR. JASMINE GANDHI, MD, FRCPC

Medical Director, Perinatal Mental Health Program, The Ottawa Hospital Associate Professor, Department of Psychiatry, University of Ottawa

## Our team



### **TOH Perinatal Mental Health**



## **TOH Perinatal Mental Health**

Pre-pandemic:

EPIC

Virtual care using OTN

Post-pandemic:

Exclusive virtual care: MS Teams, Zoom-EPIC

Collaboration: Internal/External

Teaching

## TOH Pregnancy in a Pandemic Support Group



Having a baby at The Ottawa Hospital?

Worried about how COVID-19 might affect your pregnancy and delivery?

Want to learn how to protect your mental health during this stressful time?

Join this weekly virtual support group led by doctors who specialize in obstetrics, newborn care and the mental health of new parents. We will speak about the most common concerns and struggles of being pregnant during the COVID-19 crisis.

#### Tuesdays | 8-9 pm | Zoom Registration through MyChart

No cost to participate; coverage is provided through your provincial health insurance. At this time, sessions are conducted in English only.

### STEP 1: Pre-register for your delivery

Call the Admitting department at 613-737-8200 (General)/ 613-761-4131 (Civic)

### STEP 2: Sign up for MyChart

MyChart is a secure, online patient portal that connects you with your medical and personal health information anytime, anywhere.

STEP 3: Schedule an appointment



- Evaluation
  - Pregnancy in a Pandemic Support Group
  - Virtual care
  - Virtual presence

- Sustained momentum:
  - Human resources
  - Fellowship
  - Outreach

# RESOURCES



Distancing

**During Social** 

Mental Health in an Indigenous Context **Development?** 

Webinar recording in

tout-petits : éléments fondamentaux et application pratique

Support Clients Living with Addictions and Mental Health Issues



## Pregnancy and life with a new baby are not always what you expect.

1 in 5 mothers will have depression or anxiety during pregnancy or postpartum.

Depression and anxiety during pregnancy and postpartum are often referred to as perinatal mood disorders (PMD). In this leaflet we will use the short form PMD when talking about these conditions.

You may also:

Have no energy.

Have no appetite.

Eat too much.

Sleep too much.

Not be able to sleep.

Not be able to concentrate.
 Have aches and pains.

Have a "lump" in your throat.

Have numbress or tingling.

Cry for no apparent reason.

partner, or family.

or your baby.

off without you.

Have chest pain or shortness of breath.

Not want to spend time with your baby.

Have negative or disturbing thoughts or

images that keep coming back.

Think you are not a good mother.

Think your family would be better

Think about hurting yourself or your baby.

Think about death or suicide.

Think bad things may happen to you

Keep checking things, e.g., baby's breathing.

#### If you have PMD you may:

- Have little or no interest or enjoyment in things you used to enjoy.
- Feel sad most of the time.
- Feel nervous, anxious or on edge.
- Feel like you can't stop or control worrying.

#### You may also feel:

- Really tired.
- Irritable and/or angry.
- Restless.
- Slowed down.
- U Worthless
- Guilty.
- Ashamed.
- Numb or empty.
- Alone.
- Frustrated.
  Hopeless.
- Panicky.
- If you have had any of these symptoms for more than two weeks, talk to a health care provider. Together make a plan to help you get better. This could include therapy and/or medication.
  - you Got the nearest hospital emergency room. Contact the mental health crisis line in your area.

#### You can get help from:

Your health care provider (family physician, midwife, nurse, nurse practitioner, obstetrician, psychiatrist, or psychologist).

Your public health unit: Call 1-800-268-1154 or visit <u>www.serviceontario.ca</u> to know the location and services of your local public health unit.

The Mental Health Helpline: Call 1-866-531-2600 (24 hours a day 7 days a week) or visit www.mentalhealthhelpline.ca for information about mental health services in Ontario.

Ontario Telehealth: Call 1-866-797-0000 TTY: 1-866-797-0007 (24 hours a day 7 days a week) to get health information from a Registered Nurse.

#### To order more tear-off pads, call 1-800-397-9567 ext. 2260.

2017 This document has been prepared with funds provided by the Government of Ontario

#### Remember... This is not your fault. You are not alone. There is help for you and your family.

#### What you can do:

Share your feelings with someone you trust.
 Ask for help.
 Take care of yourself.
 Take time for yourself.
 Get counselling or join a support group.
 Talk with your health care provider about taking medications.

### What you can do, if you are a partner, family member, or friend:

- Listen and support her feelings.
- ✓ Be helpful and don't judge her.
- ✓ Encourage her to seek help.
  ✓ Develop your relationship
- with the baby. ✓ Educate yourself about PMD.
- ✓ Take time for yourself.
- Find someone you can talk to.

#### 1 in 10 fathers may also have PMD. As a new father you may be at risk of PMD. Get information and support as well.



For more resources check www.en.beststart.org/for\_parents

#### You can get help from:

Your health care provider (family physician, midwife, nurse, nurse practitioner, obstetrician, psychiatrist, or psychologist).

**Your public health unit:** Call 1-800-268-1154 or visit <u>www.serviceontario.ca</u> to know the location and services of your local public health unit.

**The Mental Health Helpline:** Call 1-866-531-2600 (24 hours a day 7 days a week) or visit <u>www.mentalhealthhelpline.ca</u> for information about mental health services in Ontario.

**Ontario Telehealth:** Call 1-866-797-0000 TTY: 1-866-797-0007 (24 hours a day 7 days a week) to get health information from a Registered Nurse.

### Online Course: Best Start by Health Nexus Supporting Parents When They Experience Mental Health Challenges

- Free online course for service providers working with parents who are expecting a baby or have young children.
- Filled with interactive activities
- Developed in Ontario, Canada, but much of the content is applicable to other jurisdictions.
- Consists of three modules:
  - Module 1: Understanding Mental Health Challenges.
  - Module 2: Assessing Risk and Managing Crises.
  - Module 3: Supporting Parenting Skills.
- https://courses.beststart.org/
- Only available in English at this time



## ia BPG

NTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS & BEST PRACTICE SUIDELINES TRANSFORMING NURSING THROUGH (NOWLEDGE

**Best Practice Guideline** 

OCTOBER 2018

### Assessment and Interventions for Perinatal Depression Second Edition





Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario (2018)

https://rnao.ca/bpg/guidelines/assessment-andinterventions-perinatal-depression



Canadian Centre on Substance Use and Addiction Centre canadien sur les dépendances et l'usage de substances

Evidence. Engagement. Impact. Données. Engagement. Résultats.



### **Delivering Mental Health and Addiction Services During the COVID-19 Pandemic**

**Registration Form** 

November 30, 2020 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Eastern Time

https://www.ccsa.ca/webinars

# THANK YOU!

Christina Cantin on behalf of the CMNRP Postnatal Care Rapid Response Taskforce

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