



AWHONN

CALIFORNIA

PROMOTING THE HEALTH OF
WOMEN AND NEWBORNS

Greetings from your California Section Chair & Secretary/Treasurer



Beth Stephens-Hennessy RNC-OB, EFM, MSN, CNS



Kandice Duns MSN, BSN, RNC-EFM

Amidst these times of Covid-19, I want to recognize your sacrifice to deal with this pandemic. You are learning new skills and learning how to use new equipment. This is what we do as nurses. We can learn new concepts and implement new best practices as needs change while continuing to offer families a memorable birth experience.

In January, AWHONN National held a Leadership Conference to update State Leaders. Kandice and I attended the Leadership meeting and then shared this information with our California Executive Team and Chapter Leaders. AWHONN California had a successful 2020 annual conference in Long Beach in February.

We have achieved our 2019 Goals:

- Increasing membership by 5%
- Increasing the number of chapters
- Increase the % of Facebook users
- Improve communications with members:
New website – awhonn.california.org
Newsletter

Our 2020 goals are:

- Increase membership by 5%
- Each Chapter will hold one neonatal topic event
- Each Chapter will include implicit bias and diversity in their presentations
- Collaborate with nursing schools. Added a new position to our executive committee – A **Nursing School Liaison Chairperson**. If you are interested, please contact me.

Due to the postponement of the 2020 National Conference, Beth and I have decided to wait to decide on a date for the 2021 California Section conference. COVID-19 and the aftermath is still unknown, but we do know that travel and expenses are likely to be of concern for quite some time. We want to be sure to support the National Conference and do not want to have the two so close together that attendance of one or both will be impacted. We thank you for your understanding.

Keep yourself and your family safe and healthy. Thank you for all that you are doing to keep our Perinatal patients safe.

Novel Coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) Resources

AWHONN

Updates

Meeting and Event Status

ACOG (American College of Obstetricians & Gynecologists)

Topics

Outpatient Assessment and Management for Pregnant Women With Suspected or Confirmed Novel Coronavirus

CMQCC (California Maternal Quality Care Collaborative)

Materials & Resources

AWHONN recognizes that doula services contribute to the woman's preparation for and support during childbirth and opposes hospital policies that restrict the presence of a doula during a woman's active labor.

"Doulas are not visitors and should not be blocked from caring for patients in the antepartum, intrapartum and postpartum period. Most doulas have been contracted by patients weeks to months ahead of time and have established provider relationships. They are recognized by AWHONN and ACOG as essential personnel and part of the maternity care team," said AWHONN member Nancy Travis, MS, BSN, RN, BC, CPN, CBC, Florida Section Chair.

AWHONN supports doulas as partners in care and acknowledges their ability to provide physical, emotional, and partner support to women. AWHONN opposes hospital policies that restrict the presence of a doula in the inpatient setting during an infectious disease outbreak. Read more about AWHONN's position on continuous labor support for every woman at [AWHONN.org](https://www.awhonn.org).



From the Education Coordinator
Christine Gurney MSN, RNC-OB, C-EFM

If you have not received your CE certificate from the 2020 annual section conference, please [EMAIL](#) Christine

From the Legislative Coordinators

Mary Campbell Bliss RN, CNS, MS and Amy Scott MSN, WHNP-BC, RNC-OB, C-EFM

The two CA laws listed below went into effect on **January 1, 2020**. We invite you to share your experiences at your facilities in implementing these laws. Innovative ideas and materials will be shared with others in future newsletters. Thanks for your assistance in approving care of Moms and babies.

Amy Scott, So. CA Legislative Coordinator msamy67@gmail.com

Mary Campbell Bliss, No. CA Legis. Coordinator mcbliss8@gmail.com

AB 3032 Chapter 773 (Sept. 2018) – Maternal Mental Health Conditions

All perinatal units should have a mental health program which should include education and information about maternal mental health conditions, post-hospital treatment options and community resources. [READ HERE](#)

What does this mean to you? You should be providing your patients and families with education, community resources and treatment options for mental health conditions prior to discharge home.

Please share any innovative educational materials and coordination with outpatient mental health care that you are using to meet the requirements of AB 3032.

SB 464 Chapter 533 (Oct. 2019) – California Dignity in Pregnancy and Childbirth Act

All perinatal units should implement an evidence based implicit bias program to cover identification of current unconscious biases and misinformation, barriers to inclusion, history of exclusion and oppression of minority communities (ethnic, religious, economic, disabled, elderly, etc.). This requires an initial course and a renewal course every 2 years. [READ HERE](#)

What does this mean to you? You should be preparing to complete an implicit bias education course.

Please share any innovative educational materials and/or company which provides a course that meets the legislative requirements.

Some groups are considering using computer based tests from Harvard's Project Implicit, a research project that offers tests and guidance free of charge. While this may not meet all requirements for SB 464, the tests would meet the requirement of Identification of previous or current unconscious biases. [PROJECT IMPLICIT](#)

UPDATE FROM The Joint Commission (TJC)

*Written by Suzanne Bressler MSN, RNC
Sutter Health System Office, Quality*

Effective July 1, 2020 - The Joint Commission R3 Report: Provision of Care, Treatment and Services standards for **Maternal Safety**.

13 new elements of performance (EPs) will be applicable to Joint Commission-accredited hospitals. These new requirements are within the Provision of Care, Treatment, and Services (PC) chapter at PC.06.01.01 and PC.06.01.03 and are designed to improve the quality and safety of care provided to women during all stages of pregnancy and postpartum.

The United States ranks 65th among industrialized nations in terms of maternal death. Because of worsening maternal morbidity and mortality, The Joint Commission evaluated expert literature to determine what areas held the most potential impact. The literature review revealed that prevention, early recognition, and timely treatment for maternal hemorrhage and severe hypertension/preeclampsia had the highest impact in states working on decreasing maternal complications. This approach was supported by a technical advisory panel assembled by The Joint Commission, resulting in the development of EPs that focus on these complications.

Hemorrhage

- EP 1: Complete an assessment using an evidence-based tool for determining maternal hemorrhage risk on admission to labor and delivery and on admission to postpartum.
- EP 2: Develop written evidence-based procedures for stage-based management of pregnant and postpartum patients who experience maternal hemorrhage
- EP 3: Each obstetric unit has a standardized, secured, dedicated hemorrhage supply kit that must be stocked per the organization's defined process and, at a minimum, contains the following:
- EP 4: Provide role-specific education to all staff and providers who treat pregnant and postpartum patients about the organization's hemorrhage procedure. At a minimum, education occurs at orientation, whenever changes to the processes or procedures occur, or every two years.
- EP 5: Conduct drills at least annually to determine system issues as part of on-going quality improvement efforts. Drills include representation from each discipline identified in the organization's hemorrhage response procedure and include a team debrief after the drill.
- EP 6: Review hemorrhage cases that meet criteria established by the organization to evaluate the effectiveness of the care, treatment, and services provided by the hemorrhage response team during the event.
- EP 7: Provide education to patients (and their families including the designated support person whenever possible). At a minimum, education includes:

Preeclampsia

- EP 1: Develop written evidence-based procedures for measuring and re-measuring blood pressure. These procedures include criteria that identify patients with severely elevated blood pressure
- EP 2: Develop written evidence-based procedures for managing pregnant and postpartum patients with severe hypertension/preeclampsia that includes the following:
- EP 3: Provide role-specific education to all staff and providers who treat pregnant/ postpartum patients about the hospital's evidence-based severe hypertension/preeclampsia procedure. At a minimum, education occurs at orientation, whenever changes to the procedure occur, or every two years.
- EP 4: Conduct drills at least annually to determine system issues as part of ongoing quality improvement efforts. Severe hypertension/preeclampsia drills include a team debrief.
- EP 5: Review severe hypertension/preeclampsia cases that meet criteria established by the hospital to evaluate the effectiveness of the care, treatment, and services provided to the patient during the event.
- EP 6: Provide printed education to patients (and their families including the designated support person whenever possible).

[Visit the TJC website for more information and download the full document.](#)

Sacramento Chapter
Lori Olivera DNP, RNC-OB, EFM-C
 Chapter Coordinator

Chapter leaders attended the CA Section Leadership conference in January to receive vital information and guidance and to network with other chapter leaders.

It is with deep regret that our AWHONN SACRAMENTO CHAPTER will need to cancel our Spinning Babies Workshop scheduled for May 2 and May 3rd. All people registered will get a full refund. We are hoping to reschedule this event July 25 and July 26th. However, it is all based upon public health recommendations to keep people safe. Let me know if you have questions



Santa Barbara Chapter
Rebecca Licha RNC-OB
 Chapter Coordinator

We had a successful dinner meeting on February 6, 2020. Dinner and one speaker were sponsored by Prolacta Bioscience.

Given the current events, we will be postponing the Symposium. We are hopeful to reschedule for late summer or early fall, but will await word from SB City College. We will reach out to those who have already registered with options to defer or receive refunds. Thank you for your understanding during this unprecedented time.






SYMPOSIUM ON FOSTERING CULTURAL RESPECT:
 A DEEP DIVE INTO RACIAL HEALTH DISPARITIES, IMPLICIT BIAS & THE MATERNAL MORTALITY CRISIS



RACIAL HEALTH DISPARITIES, MATERNAL MORTALITY CRISIS, OBSTETRICAL HEMORRHAGE



MARGINALIZATION OF MIDWIVES



WHAT THE BEDSIDE NURSE CAN DO



HISTORICAL TRAUMA, IMPLICIT BIAS TRAINING



HISTORICAL TRAUMA, IMPLICIT BIAS TRAINING

JOIN US!
 Register online:
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/symposium-on-fostering-cultural-respect-tickets-95130199989>
SATURDAY, APRIL 25, 2020
SANTA BARBARA CITY COLLEGE
8:00 AM - 4:30 PM

Registration includes six (6) CEUs.
Continental breakfast and lunch will be provided

POSTPONED

San Francisco Bay Area Chapter
 Judy Olive RNC-OB/MSN CNS IBCLC
 Chapter Coordinator

UCSF nurses representing AWHONN Bay Area at the CA AWHONN conference! When we learn together, we grow together as a team. Many of the AWHONN Bay Area Board members were present at this conference and contacts were made to continue to foster the promotion of maternal and infant health. Until we see each other again, may we all Keep Calm and Wash our hands and educate our patients!



Picture Above Left (L-R)

Gissela Barrientos, Sara Gildea, Meghan Duck, Jessie Tohmc, Ingrid Scozzafava,
 DeeDee Pubien, Nicole Adams, Beth Chapin

Pictured Above Right (L-R)

Top row: Taylor Butler, Maria Salon, Ingrid Scozzafava, Jessie Tohmc, Angela Adkins, Paige Abrams,
 Meghan Duck, Valerie Huwe, Marichele Punla

Bottom row: Gissela Barrientos, Nicole Adams, Sara Gildea, Beth Chapin, Joane Manantan

Social Media/Newsletter
Sharon Dey-Layne MSN, RNC-HROB, CNS

Visit the [CA website](#) for pictures from the 2020 CA section conference



AWHONN National has agreed to give Chapters the opportunity to have a Chapter Facebook page. If your chapter is interested, please [EMAIL Carmen McCormick](#) for details and to receive official authorization.

California Leadership

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