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## ***The Future is Our Focus***

Welcome to the first edition of the FHLI Maternal & Child Health Digest. Here we will share the latest research and developments in child and maternal health in North Carolina and beyond – as well as highlighting the work of our organization in this important field. FHLI, believes that partnerships, innovation, and evidence-based community programs are essential to improving the health and well-being of these vulnerable populations. Here we will share articles and updates on topics such as maternal health policy, infant health research, and the continued impact of COVID-19 in this space. We will also illuminate our own programs and initiatives, and share ways in which you can get involved.

Thank you for joining us on this journey. We look forward to sharing our progress with you.

Sincerely,

David Reese | President & CEO | Foundation for Health Leadership & Innovation

## ***Introducing***

### **Danielle Little - MCHEAN**

Danielle has served her community as a Birth and Postpartum Doula, Childbirth Educator, and Lactation Counselor for over 12 years. Her work centers health equity, maternal child health and early childhood literacy, advocacy, and the overall being of the growing family. She is passionate about the 4-Ps of Maternal Child Health - Preconception, Pregnancy, Postpartum, and Parenting and dedicated to supporting families in transition from pregnant to parent. In her current role, she serves as the Project Manager of the Pediatrics Supporting Parents initiative with the Durham Children's Initiative.

As a Maternal Child Health Professional, Little holds an undergraduate degree in Child Development and Health Education from Peace College in Raleigh and a graduate degree in Adult Education and Education in Healthcare Professions from East Carolina University. Little serves on the board of Postpartum Support International North Carolina Chapter as well as the North Carolina Perinatal Association.

## ***Point of View***

### **Medicaid Extension - A True Win for North Carolina Families**

In April 2022, Medicaid postpartum health care was extended from 60 days to 12 months for pregnant women and birthing people in North Carolina. This five-year extension resulted from the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 which gave states the option to increase postpartum coverage to 12 months. The extension offers new hope for growing families in NC. A recent study on the Affordable Care Act found "...a 17 percent reduction in hospitalizations during the first sixty days postpartum associated with the Medicaid expansions and some evidence of a smaller decrease in

hospitalizations between sixty-one days and six months postpartum. Our findings indicate that expanding Medicaid coverage led to improved postpartum health for low-income birthing people.”

Learn more here - [Extension of Postpartum Coverage | NC Medicaid \(ncdhhs.gov\)](https://www.ncdhhs.gov/newsroom/press-releases/2022/03/22/postpartum-coverage-extended-to-12-months-for-nc-medicaid-beneficiaries-beginning-april-1)

Source:

NCDHHS, Press Release, NC Medicaid, March 2022

[Postpartum Coverage Extended to 12 Months for NC Medicaid Beneficiaries Beginning April 1 | NCDHHS - www.ncdhhs.gov](https://www.ncdhhs.gov/newsroom/press-releases/2022/03/22/postpartum-coverage-extended-to-12-months-for-nc-medicaid-beneficiaries-beginning-april-1)

## Issue Update

### March of Dimes Report Card

North Carolina Receives a “D” as a Preterm Birth Grade. More than 10% of babies born in North Carolina are born too soon. North Carolina’s preterm birth rate is 10.8%. Take a look at the March of Dimes [North Carolina Report Card](https://www.marchofdimes.org/reports-for-north-carolina). The 2022 March of Dimes Report Card highlights the latest key indicators to describe and improve maternal and infant health.

Source:

March of Dimes, Report Card, November 2022

[Reports for North Carolina | PeriStats | March of Dimes](https://www.marchofdimes.org/reports-for-north-carolina)  
[www.marchofdimes.org](https://www.marchofdimes.org)

## Did you know?

North Carolina has a Child Fatality Task Force. The North Carolina Child Fatality Task Force (CFTF) is a legislative study commission that examines the causes of child death and makes recommendations to the Governor and General Assembly on how to prevent child death, prevent abuse and neglect, and support the safety and well-being of children. Learn more [here](#).

## Learn More with NCIOM

The January/February 2023 issue of the NCMJ highlights various programs and initiatives aimed to improve maternal health outcomes. [Read the issue here](#).

## Upcoming Events



### Doing Better Together

#### Equitably & Innovatively Advancing Reproductive Health & Healthcare through Human Rights, Quality Improvement & Interprofessional Collaboration

Six FREE one-hour webinars offering CME and NCPD professional development credits.

- Trans 201: A More In-Depth Exploration of Gender Affirming Care - January 25, 12:00 PM–1:00 PM
- Full Spectrum Doula Care - February 1, 12:00 PM–1:00 PM
- Serious Mental Illness in the Perinatal Period - February 8, 12:00 PM–1:00 PM
- Restoring Indigenous Pregnancy Care - February 25, 12:00 PM–1:00 PM
- Sleep in the Peripartum Period - February 22, 12:00 PM–1:00 PM
- AWHONN’s Respectful Maternity Care Framework- Creating Mindshifts to Lead Equitable Change - March 1, 12:00 PM–1:00 PM

Register here <https://mahec.net/home/event/70246>



### National Perinatal Association | 43rd Annual Interdisciplinary Conference

*No One Left Behind: How Perinatology Can Be a Leader in Equitable Care from Public Health to Rare Diseases*

April 19 - 21, 2023

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

<https://www.npaconference.org/>

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