



Commission on Women's Health

Preventative Care Subcommittee

June 15, 2026, at 10:00 a.m.

Electronic Meeting

<https://studies.viriniageneralassembly.gov/studies/775>

The Preventative Care Subcommittee (the Subcommittee) of the Commission on Women's Health (the Commission) met electronically with Delegate Kathy K.L. Tran, chair, presiding.¹ The meeting began with introductions and opening remarks followed by presentations and discussion. Materials presented at the meeting are accessible through the [*Subcommittee's website*](#).

Presentation: Medicaid Insurance Coverage for Breast and Cervical Cancer

Dr. Greg Barabell, M.D., Chief Medical Officer, Department of Medical Assistance Services

Dr. Barabell gave a presentation on Medicaid coverage for breast and cervical cancer and related topics such as Medicaid enrollment, assistance programs, epidemiology, what prepartum, antepartum, and postpartum preventative care services the Department of Medical Assistance Services (DMAS) offers through Medicaid coverage, quality of care, and managed care.

Members of the Subcommittee followed up with questions for Dr. Barabell and other DMAS representatives who were present at the meeting. Natalie Shorter asked what DMAS sees as the biggest barrier to preventing outcome gaps for those on Medicaid. Heath Kirby, DMAS's Maternal and Child Health Program Manager, stated that the biggest barriers, especially for maternal and fetal health, are (i) access to care in both very low-density rural areas and very high-density urban areas and (ii) provider shortages. There were also questions and subsequent discussion about how Virginia compares to the national average on breast and cervical cancer screenings and treatment and what methods DMAS and partnering managed care organizations use to disseminate information about coverage and preventative care.

Presentation: Relevant Legislation from the 2026 Session of the General Assembly

Madison Richardson, Program Coordinator, Division of Legislative Services

Ms. Richardson reviewed legislation relevant to the scope of the Subcommittee from the 2026 Regular Session. The bills that passed related to topics such as contraception, remote monitoring services from DMAS for high-risk pregnancies, the labeling of menstrual supplies, coverage for maternal mental health screenings, the feasibility of implementing a statewide maternal health safety initiative, and a work group to study prenatal and postnatal substance use.

Ms. Richardson also reviewed a few bills that failed during the 2026 Regular Session relating to health insurance coverage for doula care services and the creation of an exception to the requirement for a certificate of public need for any project or action related to maternal and perinatal health services.

¹ **Members Present:** Delegate Kathy K.L. Tran (chair), Natalie Shorter

Members Absent: Dr. Denise Harris-Proctor, Kenda Sutton-El

Discussion

Members of the Subcommittee discussed what information would be beneficial to have presented or reviewed during future meetings. The discussion included (i) looking into resources or agencies that are able to provide information (a) on age-appropriate health screenings and counseling and (b) communication with adolescents about their future health as they reach adulthood, (ii) having the Virginia Department of Health or other relevant partners present about a campaign to disseminate or otherwise communicate information regarding available postpartum services, (iii) following up with DMAS on the agency's engagement with community partners or leaders concerning perinatal and maternal health and cancer screenings, and (iv) examining how to identify early signs that may be indicators for women to seek treatment or care during perimenopause and menopause.

Public Comment and Next Meeting

Members of the public were given a chance to speak in response to the information presented in the meeting but no public testimony was given. The next meeting date was not scheduled.

For more information, see the [Commission's website](#) or contact the Division of Legislative Services staff:

Madison Richardson, Program Coordinator, DLS
mrichardson@dls.virginia.gov
804-698-1854
