

January 2021  
Vol 1 Issue 1

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## Meet Our University of Maryland Baltimore Washington Medical Center Hospital Liaisons

**Jessica Chiappelli MSN, RN, RNC-OB, C-EFM, C-ONQS, Clinical Practice Development Educator**, was drawn to women's health after her own experiences with pregnancy and delivery. She wanted to inspire nurses to be compassionate and to support women through safe, informed birth choices. Her nursing career has been on labor and delivery and as a part-time childbirth educator in the community. She is the co-chair of the Maryland Perinatal Education Consortium and cares deeply about supporting new nurses. Jessica is also an active member of UMBWMC's Family Birth Center team. At a party, she might talk about her 4 kids or her backyard chickens. Jessica is excited about the virtual beekeeping course that is preparing her family to start a backyard apiary in April.

**Shirelle Arnett, MSN-CNL, RN, C-ONQS, Mother & Baby Educator**, has been a postpartum nurse for 6 years. Her career began in high-risk OB, focused on postpartum and newborn care. Shirelle's passion for newborns started at a young age when she volunteered in the nursery for a family daycare center. Her vision for the future of nursing includes the development of teamwork and communication skills. Shirelle enjoys learning and supporting the staff in the Women's and Children's division as part of the education team. For fun and relaxation, you might find Shirelle outside on a nature walk or sitting by the fireplace. Currently, she is debating the addition of a puppy to her home. Hopefully soon, she will be able to meet more of the AWHONN MD family in person!





## Contact Us

### Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/AWHONNMarylandSection/>

### AWHONN Website

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/AWHONNMarylandSection/>

### Section Email

[awhonnmd@gmail.com](mailto:awhonnmd@gmail.com)

### Section Leaders

**Stacey Iobst**

Section Chair

**Amy Brown**

Secretary/Treasurer

**Jackie Kuchta**

Membership Coordinator

**Stacia Moreno**

Student Coordinator

**Beth Audet**

Legislative Coordinator

### Chapter Coordinators

**Shannon Riley** | Anne Arundel

**Jaimi Hall** | Eastern Shore

**Mitchelle Griffiths** | Prince George

**Joy Schucker** | N. Baltimore

**Malissa DaGraca &**

**Judith Coombs** | S. Baltimore

**Toni Boyd** | Southern MD

**Sherrie Burkeholder** | Western MD

## Saturday April 17<sup>th</sup> Virtual Spring Conference



The MD, VA, and WV Sections will be hosting a spring conference featuring LaShea Haynes of [Perinatal Potpourri](#). LaShea will be presenting on *Making your Units Maternal Mental Health Friendly* and *Infusing Passion into Perinatal Nursing: That Ah-ha Moment*. More details to come soon!



## AWHONN on the Hill 2021

Are you interested in attending AWHONN on Capitol Hill? This year's event will take place virtually from March 22-23. [www.awhonn.org/advocate/2020awhonnonthecapitolhill/](http://www.awhonn.org/advocate/2020awhonnonthecapitolhill/)

- **Monday, March 22:** Full day of briefings to prepare you to meet with members of Congress or their staff. You will be thoroughly briefed on up to three bills as well as logistics for the lobby day on Tuesday.
- **Tuesday, March 23:** AWHONN staff will make appointments with members of your Congressional delegation. You will be provided with a schedule of meetings by phone or Zoom as well as talking points for a 20 to 30 minute meeting with each office.



This year AWHONN MD is offering scholarships for members to attend. Some scholarships will be reserved for student members! To apply, submit an application to [awhonnmd@gmail.com](mailto:awhonnmd@gmail.com) with your name, email, phone number, AWHONN member number, and a typed essay (500 words or less) describing why you want to attend, what makes you an ideal candidate, and how you plan to use what you learn in the future.



# Maryland Legislative Update

By Beth Audet, Legislative Coordinator

Several bills related to pregnant individuals in Maryland were introduced in January 2021.

- **[HB 0235](#) Correctional Services - Pregnant Incarcerated Individuals - Substance Abuse Assessment and Treatment.** This bill requires that pregnant, incarcerated individuals be screened for substance use disorder at intake using a validated screening tool. Additionally, pregnant, incarcerated individuals are to be referred immediately to a behavioral health care provider and a reproductive health care provider for care.
- **[HB439](#) Institute for Innovation and Implementation - Pregnant, Expecting, and Parenting Students - Data Collection and Report.** This bill requires certain county boards of education to track data relating to pregnant and parenting students and submit data to the Institute for Innovation and Implementation in the University of Maryland School of Social Work. This information will be used to develop policy recommendations and initiatives in the pregnant student population.
- **[HB401](#) Public Schools - Pregnant and Parenting Students - Policies and Reports.** This bill requires the Maryland Department of Education to create a policy to support educational and parenting goals and to improve educational outcomes of pregnant and parenting students.

## Journal Club

Meets the first Thursday of every month at 7pm via Zoom. Meeting ID: 932 3070 1851  
Passcode: 504574. More information at <https://maryland.awhonn.org/events/>

**Feb 4<sup>th</sup> article:** Grantz et al. (2018). Reassessing the Duration of the Second Stage of Labor in Relation to Maternal and Neonatal Morbidity. *Obstetrics and Gynecology*, 131(2), 345-353. Article can be found here: <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/29324600/>

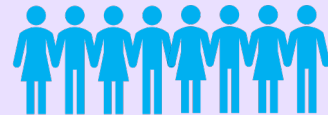
## Welcome

To our 14 new members who  
joined in December!

Heather Bradshaw  
Lauren McDaniel  
Jan Chiang  
Katelynn Gracie  
Andrew Velasquez  
Pamela Bowman  
Winnie Mutunga

Victoria Lowe  
Chinyere Osere  
Kristen Newman  
Kimberly Williams  
Amber Luck  
Victoria Ogunbode  
Tracy Katz

## Membership



AWHONN membership comes with great benefits such as scholarship opportunities, discounts to events and conferences, and access to peer-reviewed journals JOGNN and NWH! [www.awhonn.org/membership/](http://www.awhonn.org/membership/)

There are affordable membership options:

- E-membership \$96/year
- Student membership \$60/year

PLUS, you can earn a free annual membership by recruiting just THREE friends or colleagues to become new members!



Do you have stories, ideas, educational opportunities, suggestions, awards, or new certifications or degrees that you would like us to share?

Email: [awhonnmd@gmail.com](mailto:awhonnmd@gmail.com)

## Student Spotlight

Sara Fernandez is a Montgomery College Associate's Degree in Nursing student in her last semester of nursing school. She will be continuing her education at the University of Maryland School of Nursing in the RN-BSN program. Ever since volunteering with victims of violence in her community, Sara has known she wanted to advocate for women and their families. In her career, she aspires to be part of a Neonatal ICU team and a Forensic Nursing team. She believes her purpose is to empower parents to care for their fragile, yet resilient babies, and to advocate for victims of assault. Her family, paint by numbers kits, and the gym are what keep Sara sane nowadays.



## Student Liaison Update

By Stacia Moreno, Student Coordinator

In November 2020 we had a very successful virtual event - "Journey to Perinatal Nursing". Our panel of speakers included two CNMs, a Women's Health Nurse Practitioner, a Neonatal Nurse Practitioner, an L&D nurse, and a postpartum nurse. They shared about the education requirements and paths that led them to their current roles.

**Our next FREE, virtual event will be "Successful Job Interviewing" on Wednesday 2/3 at 6pm.** We will review example resumes and will conduct mock interviews in breakout rooms. Please register to attend: <https://maryland.awhonn.org/events/>

AWHONN MD is hosting our inaugural diaper drive to benefit the families in DC, Maryland, and Virginia served by the DC Diaper Bank. This year, diaper need is at an all-time high due to the pandemic, lost jobs, and financial strain. We are so happy to host our virtual diaper drive to continue helping the families we serve as nurses and as a community. Help us meet our goal of raising \$1,000 in 2021!

Donate through our link here:

<https://maryland.awhonn.org/events/>



## AWHONN MD Leadership Opportunities

Would you like to work with a fabulous team of nurses to strengthen our AWHONN MD Section? We are currently seeking volunteers for the following positions. If you are interested please contact us at [awhonnmd@gmail.com](mailto:awhonnmd@gmail.com)

- Section Communications Chair
- Newsletter coordinator
- Education Coordinator
- Montgomery County Chapter Coordinator
- Hospital Liaison positions



**Disney's Coronado Springs Resort  
Lake Buena Vista, FL • June 12-16**

The **2021 AWHONN Convention**, taking place **June 12 – 16** at **[Disney's Coronado Springs Resort in Lake Buena Vista, Florida](#)**, will focus on ways in which you can quickly adapt to uncertain scenarios, challenge the norms and bring new ideas to the table, and ensure a new future exists where you emerge as an effective leader at any level of experience. **[Early bird registration discount ends April 12, 2021.](#)**