



June 2026



AWHONN

MARYLAND

PROMOTING THE HEALTH OF
WOMEN AND NEWBORNS

MARYLAND SECTION MESSENGER

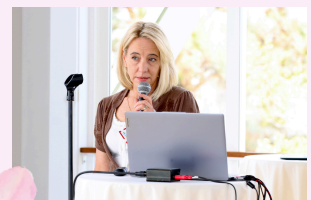
2026 SECTION CONFERENCE THREADS OF CARE: WEAVING MATERNAL AND PERINATAL HEALTH ACROSS THE LIFESPAN

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The 4th Annual AWHONN Maryland Section Conference—Threads of Care: Weaving Maternal and Perinatal Health Across the Lifespan—was an incredible success! More than 200 nurses, leaders, and perinatal professionals gathered at the beautiful waterfront Chesapeake Bay Beach Club for a full day of learning, connection, and celebration. Our pre-conference happy hour on April 21 set the tone for a vibrant, community-building event. This year’s agenda featured dynamic plenary sessions that explored the future of perinatal care, including sessions on leading counterculture change, trauma-informed support for teams, clinical insights on anaphylactoid syndrome of pregnancy, implementation of TeamBirth, social support for postpartum anxiety, and IGNITE sessions showcasing maternity care in Maryland. We were also proud to recognize Stryker as our Platinum-level sponsor, who delivered an engaging lunchtime presentation to our attendees. Participants enjoyed reconnecting with colleagues, meeting new peers, and winning exciting door prizes. We also recognized outgoing AWHONN Maryland leaders and student interns for their service to our organization. We look forward to seeing you again next year at the Chesapeake Bay Beach Club for happy hour on April 13th and a full day conference on April 14th!

- Stacey Iobst, AWHONN MD Chair



2026 MD CONFERENCE PHOTOS

HAPPY HOUR



LEADERS & INTERNS



SPEAKERS & VENDORS



HOSPITAL TEAMS





STRONGER TOGETHER ADVOCACY IN ACTION

AWHONN ON CAPITOL HILL

APRIL 27-28, 2026

Legislative Update: AWHONN on the Hill & A Historic Proclamation for Maryland

This spring, the Maryland Section of AWHONN took our advocacy to the highest levels, both on Capitol Hill and right here at home. Members of our section traveled to Washington, DC for AWHONN on the Hill, where we had the privilege of meeting with the offices of Senators Alsobrooks and Van Hollen, and Representatives Olszewski, Hoyer, Mfume, and Delaney. During those meetings, we advocated for co-sponsorship of **H.R. 3593/S. 1874, the Title VIII Nursing Workforce Reauthorization Act**, which funds the nursing pipeline that our profession depends on, and **H.R. 3942/S. 2059, the Keeping Obstetrics Local Act**, which addresses the alarming closure of labor and delivery units in rural and underserved communities. We also urged support for expanding federal student loan limits to graduate-level nursing students — a critical step toward making advanced practice education accessible to those who are already serving their communities.

Closer to home, we are proud to share that through the tireless advocacy of our section, Governor Wes Moore has officially proclaimed May 2026 as Maternal Mortality and Morbidity Recognition Month in the State of Maryland. This proclamation is a public recognition that maternal mortality is preventable, that racial disparities in birth outcomes are unacceptable, and that Maryland is committed to doing better for every birthing person in our state. We are grateful to everyone who made their voice heard, and we are just getting started.

- *Bassey Etim-Edet, MS, RN, CNL, Legislative Liaison*



2026 AWHONN CONVENTION

See you at National Convention
Register Here:

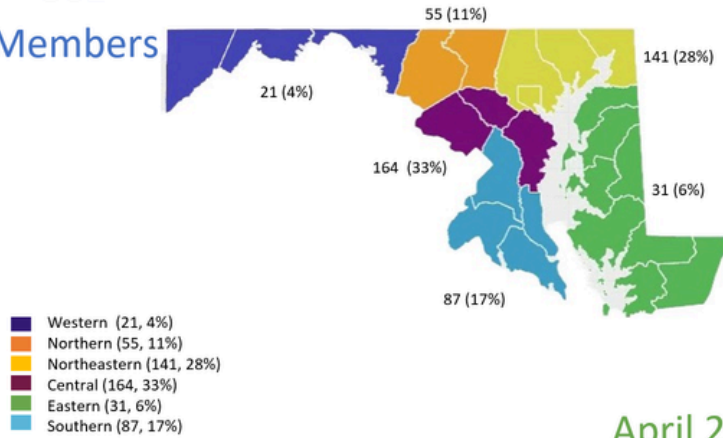
<https://awhonnconvention.org/>

June 6-10 • Orlando, FL
Disney's Coronado Springs Resort

April 2026 AWHONN MD Membership

502

Members



April 2026

Membership remains strong and growing! We continue to encourage you to invite your colleagues and friends to join our amazing AWHONN community! Thank you for your commitment to advancing the health of women and newborns through your membership and advocacy.

- Cara Caccamisi, Membership Coordinator

Come have a blast with us while representing your hospital !

We have 11 liaisons in 32 birthing hospitals in Maryland. Join us and help build our hospital liaison program! To see the vacancies: <https://maryland.awhonn.org/hospital-liaisons/>

Position description:

Share upcoming AWHONN MD events with RN colleagues at your hospital and report back to AWHONN MD leadership the needs and requests from RN colleagues. Attend quarterly virtual meetings.

If interested email us at awhonnmd@gmail.com



HOSPITAL LIASON



Meghan Speiser,
MSN, RNC-OB, C-EFM, C-ONQS
Frederick Health Hospital

Meghan Speiser earned her BSN from Shepherd University in 2006 and her MSN from Chamberlain University in 2021. She has worked in Labor & Delivery at Frederick Health Hospital for 20 years and currently serves as the Clinical Specialist, a role she has held for the past 5½ years. Meghan is passionate about women's health and improving maternal and neonatal outcomes through evidence-based practice, onboarding and supporting new nurses, and advancing ongoing staff education within her organization. Outside of nursing, she enjoys spending time with her husband, three daughters, extended family, and friends.

Frederick Health Hospital is the only hospital serving Frederick County and delivers approximately 2,400 babies each year while providing Level III neonatal care. The team at Frederick Health continues to focus on initiatives that improve patient safety and outcomes, including the recent implementation of Birth Bracelets for all delivering patients. The organization also remains committed to improving blood pressure management and reducing maternal readmissions. From 2023 to the present, Frederick Health has successfully decreased severe maternal morbidity (SMM) events by 62%, reflecting the team's dedication to excellence in maternal care.

Baltimore native Kimberly Summers brings a unique blend of professional experience, compassion, and purpose to her nursing journey. After beginning her career in human resources focusing on health benefits and wellness, Kimberly felt called to nursing through personal health challenges, caregiving responsibilities, and the loss of a loved one during the Covid 19 pandemic. These experiences reshaped her commitment to supporting women in their health and wellbeing.

A graduate of Towson University's Entry Level MSN program, Kimberly is now pursuing a Post-Graduate Certificate in Women's Health Nurse Practitioner studies at Georgetown University, anticipating graduation in December 2026. She currently works as a perinatal nurse at Johns Hopkins Hospital, gaining experience across antepartum, postpartum, labor and delivery, high risk obstetrics, the OR/PACU, and the newborn nursery. She describes being part of a birth as "magical" and deeply fulfilling.

Looking ahead, Kimberly hopes to transition into an advanced clinical role while creating community-based wellness programs that blend movement, mindfulness, and education to empower women. Outside of nursing, she enjoys working out, baking, and attending concerts.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



Kimberly Summers, Student

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