

Meeting Minutes for Noreen Stonor Drexel Birthing Center Community Advisory Panel

November 2025 Update

Executive Summary: Community Advisory Panel Meeting

Date: November 24, 2025

Location: Newport Hospital (Hybrid)

Duration: 1h 37m

Facilitator: Carrie Bridges, VP Community Health, Brown University Health

Meeting Highlights

- Opening Remarks: Newport Hospital leadership emphasized gratitude for CAP members' participation and the importance of community input in decisions about the birthing center's future.
- Introductions: Members represented diverse perspectives—clinical staff, OB/GYN specialists, philanthropy leaders, community advocates, and hospital leadership.
- Meeting Norms: Agreed on principles of respect, transparency, and collaboration; confidentiality protocols reviewed by legal counsel.
- Confidentiality: Members may share general perspectives but not confidential data; media inquiries should be directed to hospital communications.

Key Data and Context

- Birthing Center Overview:
 - 10 private suites; baby-friendly designation since 1995.
 - FY24 births: ~477 (mix of vaginal and C-section).
 - Average daily occupancy: 3 rooms.
- Quality Metrics:
 - C-section rate below state average; strong nursing excellence (Magnet status).
- Challenges:
 - Declining birth rates statewide.
 - Rising operational costs and low Medicaid reimbursement.
 - Staffing shortages and recruitment difficulties.
- Community Impact:
 - Critical access for island residents with limited transportation.

- Strong philanthropic and community support.

SWOT Analysis (Initial Themes)

- Strengths: High-quality care, baby-friendly designation, local access, strong community ties.
- Weaknesses: Lower birth volume vs. larger hospitals, staffing challenges, financial sustainability.
- Opportunities: Leverage philanthropy, partnerships, and advocacy; explore creative models.
- Threats: Declining birth rates, rising costs, competitive healthcare environment.

Next Steps

- Continue SWOT discussion at January meeting.
- Review financial and quality analysis.
- Confirm additional meeting dates in January, March, April.