



Pregnancy and Postpartum Depression and Anxiety Support Group

Welcome!

This support group is for new mothers to have a place to talk honestly and openly about how you are doing in your adjustment to motherhood. This is a place where you can be honest with yourself and others and may give and receive support. You do not have to be diagnosed with any specific illness to be here.

Some group members may be in treatment for a particular diagnosis, some may not. Anyone who wants to talk about how they are doing in their adjustment to motherhood is welcome. This is not a therapy group. This is not a substitute for psychiatric care or psychotherapy or medical treatment. The goal is to provide a safe place for you to talk about your thoughts and feelings related to motherhood. The best thing you can bring to the group is a willingness to listen to others. We do not try to solve every problem, and you do not need to give advice or solutions to others.

The facilitator is here to answer questions, to guide the discussion, and provide resources when needed. The facilitator may be a licensed therapist, a therapist-in-training, or a peer support leader.

Here are the ground rules for the group:

1. Keep everything shared here confidential. We want it to be a safe, secure place for all to talk.
2. Give everyone who wants to share a chance to talk.
3. Do not force anyone to share more than they want to.
4. Don't give advice or tell others what they should do.
5. If you want to share a thought with somebody about their story, ask if they want feedback or input before giving it.

If you are experiencing symptoms that appear to need to be addressed by a healthcare professional, the facilitator may encourage you to do so, as well as help you identify resources. We provide a list of some of the providers who have identified themselves as qualified to address issues related to perinatal mood and anxiety disorders. If you are a danger to yourself or others, we must assist you in finding an appropriate level of care. We will assist you in contacting the necessary organizations which will assist you and your family safe from harm.

Health protocol: If you or someone you live with has been diagnosed with Covid 19 or any other communicable disease, or if you are feeling sick or unwell, experiencing fever, congestion, or cough, we ask that you do not attend a support group in person, but instead take advantage of the many on-line support group options. If you choose to attend a support group in person, you agree to release The Center for Postpartum Family Health from any liability, should you or a family member become ill as a result of attending a free support group. You also agree to inform the leadership of the group, should you be diagnosed with a communicable illness after attending a group session, so that others may be informed of a possible exposure.

I have read and understand the above information and agree to the group rules for the support group.

Name

Date