



Maternal and Child Health Advisory Task Force Meeting Summary Friday, February 9, 2024

Members Present

Carolyn Allhouse
Sameerah Bilal-Roby
Tricia Brisbine
Sarah Brown
Joi Elmore
Nicole Fernandez
Patty Graham
Rachel Gilbertson
Stephanie Graves
Marie Malinowski
Elizabeth Pihlaja
Stephanie de Sam Lazaro
Sadie Swenson
Lindsay Wimmer

Members Absent

Paige Anderson Bowen
Vanessa Bembridge
Kara Hamilton-McGraw
Rachael Joseph
Eugene Nichols
Meredith O'Brien
Michelle O'Brien
Tamiko Ralston
Cinthia Rodriguez-Navin
Jamie Stang

MDH Staff

Nicole Brown
Judy Edwards
Mariah Geiger-Williams
Jennie Lippert
Amy Stauter
Elizabeth Taylor-Schiro
Anne Walaszek
Noya Woodrich

Welcome, Introductions, and Chair Remarks

Sameerah Bilal-Roby, Chair of the Task Force, welcomed members and guests, and introductions were made. The December 8th meeting minutes were previously accepted via email vote. A quorum was established, and the meeting began. A motion and second were made to accept the agenda. The motion passed and the agenda was accepted as presented.

Member News and Issues in the Field

Stephanie Graves shared about the upcoming potential changes being made for the Task Force to become more action driven. Nicole Fernandez spoke about looking for educational trainings and attending more conferences from MDH. Lindsay Wimmer spoke about the Minnesota Center for Stillbirth and Infant Death. Sarah Brown talked about Health Equity and Community Health Committees, also interested in connecting with events in the area. Rachel Gilbertson shared about spreading awareness of rural issues to the larger population, specifically wage gap between nurses, including workforce shortages and a decline in birthing hospitals. Other task force members shared about learning and observing the issues from the group. Sameerah Bilal-Roby spoke about Black Maternal Health Week on April 11-12. Joi Elmore spoke about her passion of training, developing curriculum, engaging community members, and offered up her expertise for the task force group at large.

I-MOM Subcommittee Update

Joi Elmore provided an update on the I-MOM Perinatal sub-committee work. The sub-committee developed six key themes around perinatal and maternal health. Recent updates include using plain and actionable language and embedding anti-racism recommendations. Next steps include a statement about target population and finalizing the strategic plan with community input.

MCH Update from Noya Woodrich

Noya Woodrich shared new hire updates within MDH/MCH. She also shared about a recent Ramsey County WIC visit from the secretary of the US Department of Agriculture.

MCH Advisory Task Force Restructure

MCH Staff member Nicole Brown shared the plans for the upcoming MCH Advisory Task Force restructure. She talked about the Task Force needing clear objectives, organization, roles, responsibilities and knowing more about MCH's priorities and support. The Executive Committee met to align and solidify roles and responsibilities and incorporate Title V structure and priorities. The general consensus of the Task Force was positive towards the potential changes.

Volunteers Needed

Four areas are needing volunteers to fill vacant roles and subcommittee seats. Chair-elect, Membership Committee, Commissioner Report Committee, Executive Committee are needed. Only one volunteer has submitted their name since the December 2023 meeting. MCH will send out a reminder email with roles and responsibilities within the week.

Adjournment

The April 12th Task Force meeting was recommended to be moved to another date to accommodate the Black Maternal Health Week event. MCH will send an email to determine the new date. The meeting was adjourned by Sameerah Bilal-Roby.