



Maternal and Child Health Advisory Task Force Meeting Summary Friday, April 14, 2023

Members Present:

Carolyn Allshouse
Bryn Basri
Vanessa Bembridge
Sameerah Bilal-Roby
Paige Anderson Bowen
Tricia Brisbine
Sarah Brown
Nicole Fernandez
Rachel Gilbertson
Rachael Joseph
Marie Malinowski
Meredith Martinez
Eugene Nichols
Michelle O'Brien
Elizabeth Pihlaja
Deb Purfeerst
Tamiko Ralston
Sadie Swenson
Lindsey Wimmer

Members Absent:

Stephanie de Sam Lazaro
Joi Elmore
Stephanie Graves
Kara Hamilton-McGraw
Jaime Slaughter-Acey
Jamie Stang
Megan Waltz
Jayne Whiteford

MDH Staff

Nicole Brown
Tenzin Chonyi
Judy Edwards
Karen Fogg
Sarah Henry
Elizabeth Taylor-Schiro
Lynn Thompson
Noya Woodrich

Guests

Stephanie Hogenson – MN
Children's Cabinet
Brittany Wright, MMB

Welcome, Introductions and Chair Remarks

Paige Anderson Bowen, Task Force Chair, welcomed everyone and introductions were made. It was moved and seconded to approve the February meeting summary and April meeting agenda. She also welcomed the new Task Force members and announced that Pat Lang, a long-time serving member, has retired from the PACER Center and the Task Force.

ACTION ITEM: Paige asked that MDH send an updated membership roster to the Task Force.

Governor's Children's Cabinet Presentation

Brittany Wright, Children's Cabinet Program Manager, presented on the Minnesota Children's Cabinet.

In 1993 the Children's Cabinet was established via statute and is a cabinet of commissioners of state agencies and senior agency leaders. The priorities are Healthy Beginnings, Children's Mental Health, Early Care and Education, Housing, Food Security and Youth Justice and Opportunity.

Brittany's colleague Stephanie Hogenson, Children's Cabinet Policy Director, shared the Children's fiscal map which showed where they spend their funds by program. This data includes 17 state agencies' expenditures.

She also shared the cross-agency coordination priorities which include supporting childcare and industry access, early childhood supports and improvements and Healthy Beginnings and development. She noted that there were strides taken in the Maternal and Child health space regarding Healthy Black Pregnancies.

The Cabinet identified several areas for their budget and these included Beginning with Birth, Academic Supports, Workforce and Pipelines, Child Care and Early Learning, Mental Health, School-based Health and Family, Youth and Community Sports. These priorities are shared across nine state agencies and multiple legislative jurisdictions.

Maternal and Child Health proposals for MDH include Community Solutions Fund for Healthy Child Development, Healthy Beginnings, Healthy Families, Help Me Connect, increased funding for Home Visiting and Fetal Infant Mortality Reviews.

She also shared an overview of the proposal for the new Department of Children, Youth and Families which included a timeline of implementation. The Help Me Connect program from MDH would be part of this division.

MDH Updates

Noya Woodrich, CFH Division Director, noted that all of CFH's legislative proposals are still in process at the legislature. She also mentioned that the division will have the Family Home Visiting manager starting in early May and Halkeno Tura has been named Assistant Commissioner of the Health Equity Bureau. Mary Manning's replacement should also be starting in the next month or two.

I-MOM Perinatal Task Force Subcommittee Updates

Michelle O'Brien and Meredith Martinez, subcommittee members updated members on the timeline of the subcommittee. In April/May, membership development (developing procedures, charter and work plan and meetings with members) will occur. For June/July, alignment of perinatal priorities (synthesized findings of existing reports and recommendations and requests for feedback) will take place. In August/September, they will be developing the draft action plan (gathering for action planning, outlining key priorities and activities and attending the National Maternal Health Symposium).

Member News and Issues

Sameerah shared that she will be attending the annual Maternal Birth Conference and is very excited about this.

Tamiko noted that Angela Watts will be presenting a doula brunch on May 9. There hasn't been a lot of national attention on recognizing local doulas, so this is a great event.

Sadie Swenson shared that her agency has noted that there are disparities in mental health referrals from nurses and that Black/African American populations are less likely to accept referrals and to follow through with appointments. She asked the group if any other agencies are implementing similar projects or ideas and what kind of strategies implemented have been successful.

Adjourn (next meeting – Friday, June 9, 2023)