



## Maternal and Child Health Advisory Task Force Meeting Summary Friday, December 8, 2023

### Members Present

Carolyn Allshouse  
Paige Anderson Bowen  
Vanessa Bembridge  
Tricia Brisbine  
Nicole Brown  
Joi Elmore  
Nicole Fernandez  
Rachel Gilbertson  
Stephanie Graves  
Marie Malinowski  
Michelle O'Brien  
Elizabeth Pihlaja  
Deb Purfeerst  
Tamiko Ralston  
Cinthia Rodriguez-Navin  
Stephanie de Sam Lazaro  
Jamie Stang  
Sadie Swenson  
Lindsay Wimmer

### Members Absent

Sameerah Bilal-Roby  
Sarah Brown  
Kara Hamilton-McGraw  
Rachael Joseph  
Eugene Nichols  
Meredith O'Brien

### MDH Staff

Nicole Brown  
Judy Edwards  
John Eshun  
Ramya Palaniappan  
Savannah Riddle  
Amy Stauter  
Elizabeth Taylor-Schiro  
Noya Woodrich

### Welcome, Introductions, and Chair Remarks

Paige Anderson Bowen, Chair of the Task Force, welcomed members and guests, and introductions were made. Judy Edwards introduced MCH staff members Amy Stauter and John Eshun to the task force. A quorum was established, and the meeting began. A motion and second were made to accept the agenda. Motion passed and the agenda was accepted as presented. Tamiko Ralston and Jayne Whitefield's second terms are completed on 12/31/23. Bryn Basri and Deb Purfeerst are resigning from the Task Force. Seat vacancies are being publicized.

### Member News and Issues in the Field

Members shared news and issues in the field. Nicole Fernandez shared about an upcoming SUD/ODU conference. Nicole also mentioned a survey for serving BIPOC community. Sadie Swenson talked about prenatal care concerns, partnering with local Cradle to Career organization to develop strategies. Tricia Brisbine mentioned a Gillette Children's project and participation in the Waiver Reimagine committee.

Rachel Gilbertson talked about the Promising Practices grant from MDH to develop the Heart-To-Heart pilot program and a doula project from the Bush Foundation grant.

### Child and Family Health (CFH) Update

Noya Woodrich, CFH Division Director, shared the division's update. Help Me Connect will be moved to the new agency on January 1, 2025. Title V block grant met with the federal agency and received high praise. Pakou Xiong joined the CFH team in the fall as the Health Equity Strategist. Noya introduced Savannah Riddle, MCH section manager.

### I-MOM Subcommittee Update

Michelle O'Brien and Joi Elmore provided an update on the I-MOM committee's work. The subcommittee developed six key themes around perinatal and maternal health. A discussion regarding the six themes ensued. The next steps of the strategic plan were presented.

### State Community Health Services Advisory Council (SCHSAC) Representative

SCHSAC is open to having one of their members serve as their representative on the task force. A discussion regarding the qualifications for the SCHSAC rep ensued. Qualifications agreed upon are elected official, potentially located in greater Minnesota (north central and northwest MN), passionate about MCH issues, member of ethnic group or BIPOC, member of the Minneapolis City Council. The task force will do more research and provide names for consideration. MDH will provide SCHSAC with a form for potential interested individuals.

### 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. A discussion about roles and responsibilities ensued.

### Update on Breakout Session from October 13, 2023

The executive committee met and discussed some of the themes from the October 13 meeting breakout sessions. MDH is drafting a proposal/blueprint moving forward around the themes and will share with the group to offer their revisions and feedback at the executive committee's January meeting. Hoping to present it to the full membership for discussion at the February meeting.

### Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by Paige Anderson Bowen.