

Meeting Minutes of:
Illinois Department of Public Health
Maternal Mortality Review Committee-Violent Deaths (MMRC-V) subcommittee of Perinatal Advisory
Committee
January 22, 2026, 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
This meeting will be VIRTUAL ONLY

Members	Guests & IDPH
Robin L. Jones- Chair Alysan Anderson Alyssa Ramirez Andrew Fisher Ann Borders Anne Liz Glasgow Bakahia Madison Bernadette Ray Cheyenne Thompson Chloe McMurray Elise Wessol Glendean Burton Jerome Loew Kara Driscoll Karie Stewart Katherine Austman Lita Simanis Maripat Zeschke Michele McCay Niyati Dhand Sherry Jones Shirley Scott Stacey Chamberlain Stacie Geller Tamela Milan Alexander Members NOT in Attendance Carole Warshaw Jaclyn Rodriguez- Excused	Alexander Smith, IDPH Asan Hawkins, CDC/CSTE Cara Bergo, IDPH Hillary Kelly, IDPH Jessica Wang, IDPH Intern Joquine Nege, IDPH Julia Howland, IDPH Katy Endress, IDPH Leandra Diaz, IDPH Lisa Masinter, IDPH Nancy Martin, IDPH Tonya Hedges, IDPH Trishna Harris, IDPH Cassidy Sheehan, UIC Abstractor April Caruso, APC Connie Thompson, APC Daniell Ashford, APC Dede Stewart, APC Joanne Sorce, APC Jodi Hoskins, APC Maripat Zeschke, APC Roma Allen, APC Susie C. Bachman-Penning, APC Lisa Mani, HFS Brielle Osting, HFS

Meeting Minutes of:
ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH
MATERNAL MORTALITY REVIEW COMMITTEE- Violent Deaths MMRC-V
January 22, 2026

Introductions

The meeting was called to order by the chair at 09:06 AM. The Chair welcomed the members and guests.

Motions

- Motion to approve minutes from November 20, 2025
 - 1st Jerry Loew, 2nd Glendean Burton, Unanimous Approval
- Motion to vote on Naeha Haridasa nomination
 - 1st Stacie Geller, 2nd Bernadette Ray, Unanimous Approval
- Motion to close session to review the cases/ abstracts pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2© (15) (professional ethics and performance in case review) and 5 ILCS 120/2© (17) (matters protected under the Patient Safety and Quality Improvement Act of 2005, or the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA))
 - 1st Stacie Geller, 2nd Karie Stewart, Unanimous
- Motion to reopen the meeting.
 - 1st Sherry Jones, 2nd Ann Borders, Unanimous Approval
- Motion to adjourn the meeting
 - 1st Stacie Geller, 2nd Ann Borders, Unanimous Approval

Agenda Items

- **Welcome & Introduction**
- Robin Jones welcomed all the MMRC-V members and guests.
 - Joquine Nege took the roll call of the committee members.
- **Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) Updates**
 - Cara gave a highlight of the Maternal Mortality Report that was released in November. 91% of pregnancy-related deaths are potentially preventable, Black women were more than twice as likely to die from any pregnancy-related condition. This report reinforces the Birth Equity Blueprint initiative signed by the Illinois state governor (J. B. Pritzker). Members were encouraged to use the link that was sent to them to access the full report. Cara gave credit to all members for their contribution to the successful release of the report.
 - We are currently working on the follow up implementation steps for the Maternal Health Summit that took place in November of 2025. Meetings will start up in February. Keep an eye out for more information on that. Members were asked to reach out to Cara if they were on the email list would like to participate in the workgroup.
 - The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), as part of its continuing effort to reduce public burden and maximize the utility of government information, invites the public and other federal agencies offering opportunity to comment on a continuing information collection, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995. The link will be sent to all members at the end of the meeting for an opportunity to comment on collection of maternal mortality data through the Maternal Mortality Review Information Application (MMRIA).
 - Robin reminded all members how import the MMRIA system is considering how far the review committee has come form a time when there was no centralized data system, and this will be big blow to the program if we lose this supportive data warehouse.

- Interview for the Title V director is close to the finish line. Hopefully the position will be filled soon. Robin expressed concern about the rate of turnover of personnel in that position and work could be done to forestall such indents. Cara and Lisa sheared the same sentiment but tried to throw more light on the role and process. However, we are dedicated to bringing the best hands and hope that they will stay.
- Maternal Mortality Report will be out by next week. Link to be sent by Joquine once it's released
- Currently, we have CDC funding for MMRC to the end of October and expected to resubmit the continuation application for the next funding period by April 2026
- MANDI data system is up and running, members were encouraged to use it and give feedback. Alex added that the system is intended to be use in the collection of data for MMRC, and other programs.
- Alex gave an update for Levels of Care Code 640: We are waiting for policy to finalize their end, and it will go to the governor's office for approval. More details to come.
- **Brief Refresher on MMRC Mission & Process**
 - Joquine gave a brief refresher on MMRC Mission and laid out the process of reviewing the cases.
 - Robin encouraged all members to volunteer as case leaders and to make their voices heard during case reviews.
- **Public Comment**
 - Ann gave feedback on the ILPQC on the highlights of their advocacy initiatives with a lot of hospitals, emergency departments, OBs etc. Focusing on screening for depression and anxiety alongside substance use disorder and how to harness our state resources more successfully to enable patients get more effective treatment. Members who are interested in participating are encouraged to reach out to her for more information.
 - Elise was wondering how Perinatal mental Health ties into this initiative as most pregnant patient's (with Medicaid Insurance) appointments are usually months out. Ann reiterated that the strategy is meant to bridge the gap.
 - Robin wanted to know if this initiative targets specific areas e.g. OB, Primary Care, Residents, ERs. Ann affirmed that those areas of care are being targeted.
 - Robin asked about limited resources particularly for those with Medicaid Insurance. MMRC data shows that a large proportion of the reviewed maternal deaths are linked to those with Medicaid Insurance. Ann agreed with what the data says but also admitted that the that is the biggest challenge as most of the specialty practices do not accept Medicaid Insurance. However, MCOs are working around this challenge and helping patients navigate how to access services.
 - Stacie Geller reminded everyone about the UIC-ED Training project has a module dedicated to creating awareness of the resources available for ER healthcare providers.
- **Moment of Silence and Closed Session for Death Review**
 - There was a moment of silence to reflect on these mothers and their families.
 - The open meeting closed with a motion from Stacie Geller, a second from Karie Stewart, and had unanimous approval.

- **Debrief/Comments**

- Robin encouraged members to review the Utah all members about being mindful of the
- The committee reviewed 5 (five) deaths due to substance use disorder and 5 (five) due to homicide and 2 (two) of all the cases reviewed were pregnancy related.
- Reopen the Open Meeting a motion from Sherry Jones a second from Ann Borders, and had unanimous approval

Next meeting is planned for March 19, 2026.

Adjournment

- Stacie Geller motioned to adjourn, Ann Borders seconded, unanimous approval.