

**Meeting Minutes of:**  
**Illinois Department of Public Health**  
**Maternal Mortality Review Committee (MMRC) subcommittee of Perinatal Advisory Committee**  
**June 11, 2025, 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.**  
**This meeting will be VIRTUAL ONLY**

<b>Members</b>	<b>Guests &amp; IDPH</b>
Robin L. Jones- Chair	Trishna Harris, IDPH
Amy Sloan-Gray	Alexander Smith, IDPH
Beth Plunkett	Tonya Hedges, IDPH
Caroline Thomas	Joaquine Nege, IDPH
Catherine Harth	Nancy Martin, IDPH
Charu Gupta	Hilary Kelly, IDPH
Donald Reese	Sierra Wilson, IDPH
Ramsey Unal	Leandra Diaz, IDPH
Jennifer Banayan	Lisa Masinter, IDPH
Jerry Loew	Maura Quinlan, IDPH
Joan Briller	
Jose Ortiz	Aliyah Love-Clark, UIC Abstractor
Julieta Barroeta	
Lee Smith	April Caruso, APC
Lori Folken	Andrea Cross, APC
Neha Bhardwaj	Diedra Stewart, APC
Olga Lazala	Jodi Hoskins, APC
Patricia Lee King	Susie Swain, APC
Paula Melone	Daniell Ashford, APC
Pavitra Kotini-Shah	Andrea Cross, APC
Shirley Scott	Joanne Sorce, APC
Stacie Geller	Roma Allen, APC
Tayo Mbande	Connie Thompson, APC
<b>Members NOT in Attendance</b>	
Ashley Hunt-Excused	Lisa Mani, HFS
Deborah Boyle-Excused	Lori Orr, IL Dept of Human Services
Helen Cejtin-Excused	Lisa Cohen, IL Dept od Human Services, Substance Use Prevention and Recovery (SUPR)

**Meeting Minutes of:  
ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH  
MATERNAL MORTALITY REVIEW COMMITTEE MMRC  
June 11, 2025**

**Introductions**

The meeting was called to order by the chair at 09:02 AM. The chair welcomed the members and guests.

**Motions**

- Motion to approve minutes from April 09, 2025
  - 1<sup>st</sup>: Beth Plunkett, 2<sup>nd</sup>: Donald Reese, Unanimous Approval
- Vote on new member-
  - No vote
- Motion to close session to review the death/abstracts pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(15) (professional ethics and performance in death review) and 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(17) (matters protected under the Patient Safety and Quality Improvement Act of 2005, or the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA)).
  - 1<sup>st</sup>: Stacie Geller, 2<sup>nd</sup>: Catherine Harth, Unanimous Approval
- Motion to reopen the meeting.
  - 1<sup>st</sup>: Paula Melone, 2<sup>nd</sup>: Jerry Loew Unanimous Approval
- Motion to adjourn the meeting
  - 1<sup>st</sup>: Patricia Lee King, 2<sup>nd</sup>: Paula Melone, Unanimous Approval

**Agenda Items**

- **Welcome & Introduction**
- Robin and Joquine welcomed all the MMRC members and guests.
  - Joquine Nege took the roll call of the committee members.
- **Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) Updates**
  - Lisa gave IDPH updates and informed members that the ongoing Blueprint project focused on Maternal Health and the state agency collaboration is in progress. More information to come soon.
  - 640 project is now with legal for their review, and it will be going to the governor's office after the review.
  - The bi-annual Maternal Health Summit is scheduled to take place on November 18-19, 2025. Members were advised to watch out for more information about registration.
  - Program Funding-IDPH is currently working on Continuation of Title -V application. The document will be made available for public to review in about two weeks.
  - Reminded members of the paperwork for Levels of care project is now in the governor's office for review. Members were told to keep their ears to the ground for more updates. Hoping to be released by the end of this calendar year.
  - Lisa and Alex are set to start interviewing for the Perinatal Lead nurse to fill the position
  - Illinois reaffirms Policy to preserve Access to Life-Saving Maternal Health Emergency Room Treatment as HHS Rescinds Federal Guidance put in place following the Dobbs Decision
  - Lisa welcomed a new hire, Sierra Wilson who will be assisting with our MCH grants

The process of filling other vacant positions is ongoing.

- **Public Comment**
  - Stacie informed members about their plan to add another module to the training materials for early pregnancy losses. More information to come
  - There was no vote on member nomination. No one came forth to nominate the person. Committee is still in need of a person from a community health center.
- **Brief Refresher on MMRC Mission & Process**
  - Joquine gave a brief refresher on MMRC Mission and laid out the process of reviewing the cases. She stressed the need for all members to prereview the cases prior to the meeting day for ease of review. Stated that the committee has completed the review of 2022 MMRC/V deaths. The review of 2023 MMRC deaths will commence in August. New report for 2021 & 2022 deaths will be out in the fall
  - Robin reminded every member that their voice is important. She encouraged members to express their view during the case review.
- **Moment of Silence and Closed Session for Death Review**
  - There was a moment of silence to reflect on these mothers and their families.
  - **The meeting closed with a motion from Stacie Geller, a second from Catherine Harth, and had unanimous approval.**
- *This committee closed pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(15) (professional ethics and performance in death review) and 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(17) (matters protected under the Patient Safety and Quality Improvement Act of 2005, or the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA)).*
- **The meeting was reopened, Paula Melone motioned, and Jerry Loew seconded.**
- **Debrief/Comments**
  - The committee reviewed 7 (Seven) deaths abstracted for this meeting out of which 5(five) were pregnancy related.

**Next meeting is planned for August 13, 2025.**

**Adjournment**

- Patricia Lee King motioned to adjourn, Paula Melone seconded, unanimous approval.