

Meeting Minutes of:
Illinois Department of Public Health
Maternal Mortality Review Committee (MMRC) subcommittee of Perinatal Advisory Committee
October 15, 2025, 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
This meeting will be VIRTUAL ONLY

Members	Guests & IDPH
Robin L. Jones- Chair Amy Sloan-Gray Ashley Hunt Beth Plunkett Caroline Thomas Catherine Harth Charu Gupta Deborah Boyle Donald Reese Helen Cejtin Jennifer Banayan Jerry Loew Joan Briller Jose Ortiz Julieta Barroeta Lori Folken Neha Bhardwaj Olga Lazala Patricia Lee King Paula Melone Pavitra Kotini-Shah Ramsey Unal Stacie Geller Tayo Mbande Members NOT in Attendance Shirley Scott -Excused	Trishna Harris, IDPH Alexander Smith, IDPH Tonya Hedges, IDPH Joquine Nege, IDPH Lisa Masinter, IDPH Hilary Kelly, IDPH Cara Bergo, IDPH Jessica Wang, IDPH Intern Kyla Greenfield, UIC Abstractor Woojung Lee, UIC Abstractor Stefani Caldwell, UIC April Caruso, APC Andrea Cross, APC Diedra Stewart, APC Jodi Hoskins, APC Susie Swain, APC Daniell Ashford, APC Joanne Sorce, APC Roma Allen, APC Maripat Zeschke, APC Lisa Mani, HFS Lori Orr, IL Dept of Human Services Lisa Cohen, IL Dept of Human Services, Substance Use Prevention and Recovery (SUPR)

Meeting Minutes of:

ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH MATERNAL MORTALITY REVIEW COMMITTEE MMRC October 15, 2025

Introductions

The meeting was called to order by the chair at 09:04 AM. The chair welcomed the members and guests.

Motions

- Motion to approve minutes from August 13, 2025
 - 1st: Pavitra Kotini-Shah, 2nd: Catherine Harth, Unanimous Approval
- 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)).
 - 1st: Julieta Barroeta, 2nd: Patricia Lee King, Unanimous Approval
- Motion to reopen the meeting.
 - 1st: Pavitra Kotini-Shah, 2nd: Catherine Harth Unanimous Approval
- Motion to adjourn the meeting
 - 1st: Lori Folken, 2nd: Jerry Loew, Unanimous Approval

Agenda Items

- **Welcome & Introduction**
- Robin welcomed all the MMRC members and guests.
 - Joquine took the roll call of the committee members.
 - Cara introduced Brielle Osting, (Transforming Maternal Health Director, HFS) replacing Timika Anderson-Reeves as HFS representative and the new UIC Abstractors (Woojung Lee and Kyla Greenfield)
- **Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) Updates**
 - Lisa gave a shout out to committee members for their contributions to the success of the release of the Illinois' Blueprint for Birth Equity
 - She gave more insight about the invitation and registration for the upcoming Maternal Health Summit taking place on November 18-19, 2025, in Bloomington Illinois. Attendance will be strictly by invitation. This is not intended to exclude anyone but because this summit is going to take a deeper dive on a strategic planning approach to achieve the Blueprint goals. However, members were encouraged to reach out to IDPH if they are aware of anyone with the skill set within their organization who can lend their skills to the discuss.
 - Lisa used the opportunity to welcome Jessica Wang medical student (IDPH Intern) who will be working closely with her
 - All committee members are invited to attend the Summit, Joquine to resend invitation to members as a reminder to enable them register.
 - Illinois Maternal Mortality Report will be out in November. It will cover maternal deaths from 2021 and 2022, and the format will be slightly different, recommendations a little shorter and there will be more of data than the previous reports.
 - Cara gave an update about the just released Illinois' Blueprint for Birth Equity, highlighting the 4 goals; expanding investments in healthcare quality and provider support, promote access to birthing and specialty care services, establish universal

- assessment, referral and care coordination, and develop shared measurement and accountability framework for maternal health and birth equity.
 - Robin gave Lisa praise for the successful launch of the Blueprint.
 - We are currently interviewing to fill the Title V director position.
 - MANDI is currently up and running smoothly despite the hiccup at the initial launch.
 - Alex informed members about the statewide quality council meeting to discuss about MANDI and encouraged them to attend. Link to the meeting was provided in the chat
 - 640 Level of care project is with our policy team, and they are scrutinizing the entire document to ensure that all requirements are met.
 - Cara Bergo reminded all members that have outstanding mandatory training to endeavor to complete them as soon as possible. She also reminded those that are yet to submit their signed updated confidentiality agreement to do so.
- **Public Comment**
 - Jennifer Banayan inquired if we are still in the process of looking to add another anesthesiologist to the committee. Robin responded in the affirmative. She also stressed that in the interest of diversifying, we want someone outside of the Chicago area. Ramsy volunteered to speak with someone she knows that has the skill set and get back to the committee. Every member was encouraged to keep an eye out for anyone they think will be a good fit as well.
- **Brief Refresher on MMRC Mission & Process**
 - Robin gave a heads up about the new format of reviewing cases with emphasis on factors.
 - Cara 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.
 - 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 Julieta Barroeta, a second from Patricia Lee King, 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**, Pavitra Kotini Shah motioned, and Catherine Harth seconded.
- **Debrief/Comments**
 - The committee reviewed 5 (five) deaths abstracted for this meeting and all of them were found to be pregnancy related.

Next meeting is planned for December 10, 2025.

Adjournment

- Lori Folken motioned to adjourn, Jerry Loew seconded, unanimous approval.