

Meeting Minutes of:
Illinois Department of Public Health
Maternal Mortality Review Committee-Violent Deaths (MMRC-V) subcommittee of Perinatal Advisory
Committee
September 18, 2025, 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 Carole Warshaw Cheyenne Thompson Chloe McMurray Jaclyn Rodriguez Jerome Loew Kara Driscoll Karie Stewart Kate Austman Kimberly Gressick Maripat Zeschke Niyati Dhand Sherry Jones Shirley Scott Stacie Geller Stacey Chamberlain Tamela Milan-Alexander Members NOT in Attendance Elise Wessol- Excused Glendean Burton-Excused Lita Simanis-Excused Michele McCay-Excused	Cara Bergo, IDPH Alexander Smith, IDPH Leandra Diaz, IDPH Joquine Nege, IDPH Katy Endress, IDPH Nancy Martin, IDPH Eugenia Olison, IDPH Tonya Hedges, IDPH Leslie Wise, IDPH Trish Pitts, UIC Abstractor Cassidy Sheehan, UIC Abstractor April Caruso, APC Daniell Ashford, APC Dede Stewart, APC Susie Swain, APC Andrea Cross, APC Maripat Zeschke, APC Lisa Cohen, DHS Brielle Osting, HFS Lisa Mani, HFS Melissa Box, DCFS Abigail Holicky, UIC Taylor Breiter, UIC

Meeting Minutes of:
ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH
MATERNAL MORTALITY REVIEW COMMITTEE- Violent Deaths MMRC-V
September 18, 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 July 17, 2025
 - 1st Jaclyn Rodriguez, 2nd Kara Driscoll, 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 Jaclyn Rodriguez, 2nd Sherry Jones, Unanimous
- Motion to reopen the meeting.
 - 1st Jaclyn Rodriguez, 2nd Alysian Anderson, Unanimous Approval
- Motion to adjourn the meeting
 - 1st Stacie Geller, 2nd Jaclyn Rodriguez, Unanimous Approval

Agenda Items

- **Welcome & Introduction**
- Cara Bergo 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 reminded members about the upcoming Maternal Health Summit in November (11/18 & 19/2025) taking place at the ISU Bone Student's Center in Bloomington Normal. Members were asked to stay tuned for more information about registration for the event.
 - Updating the Levels of Care Code 640 is at its final stage at the governor's office. More details to come.
 - Expected federal funding for the Maternal and Child Health Block Grant (Title V) is 90%. Illinois application review went very well and final submission is done.
 - We are excited to welcome a new hire for the position of Data Analyst (Biniyam). In the process of interviewing for the Title V Director's position
- **Maternal Health Innovation Update - *Developing Innovative MMRC Recommendations: by Abigail Holicky, Taylor Breiter & Cara***
 - Highlights of the context of the work they have been doing with respect to the activities of MMRC/V. Purpose is to reduce maternal mortality and severe maternal morbidity by: Establishing maternal health task forces in the state
 - The updates included comparing the national catalog of recommendations vs Illinois, next steps and looking ahead, and the next Illinois Maternal Mortality Report, and then concluded by listing some applications in MMRC-V meetings
 - There were a lot of positive feedback from the members and some thought-provoking questions as well

- After the presentation, a one-pager with a concise overview of the program was shared with all members of the committee
- **DCFS Mandate Update:** *by Melissa Box*
 - She presented an overview update about DCFS Mandate on child abuse prevention and treatment Act (CAPTA, 2010) highlighting plans of safe care, notification pathway, screening, risk and safety and assessment and prompt investigation.
 - Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act (CARA, 2016) focusing on the monitoring systems, referrals to and delivery appropriate services.
 - An existing family care plan form template that will be used as pilot in three sites in FY26 was presented to the members.
- **Membership Composition**
 - To ensure clinical and nonclinical, geographic, diverse and expertise representation in the committee membership, Stacey Chamberlain is introducing a colleague with master's in public policy.
 - There is still need for a pathologist in the committee. Jerry needs members to reach out to any one with such skills and send contact to Cara.
 - Ann suggested adding another OB to the committee. She was reminded that an OB (Sherry Jones) has just been added.
- **Brief Refresher on MMRC Mission & Process**
 - Cara gave a brief refresher on MMRC Mission and laid out the process of reviewing the cases. She also explained the tweak on how the committee will tailor the review process to make recommendations more practical.
 - Robin encouraged all members to volunteer as case leaders and to make their voices heard during case reviews.
- **Public Comment**
 - Ann informed members about the upcoming Advocacy Annual event and invited all members to go to ILPQC website to register. She also asked those interested in partnering, to reach out to her for additional information
- **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 Jaclyn Rodriguez, a second from Sherry Jones, and had unanimous approval.
- **Debrief/Comments**
 - The committee reviewed 7 (seven) deaths out of the 8 abstracted cases, and 3 (three) of all the cases reviewed were pregnancy related.
 - Reopen the Open Meeting a motion from Jaclyn Rodriguez, a second from Alysia Anderson, and had unanimous approval

Next meeting is planned for November 20, 2025.

Adjournment

- Stacie Geller motioned to adjourn, Jaclyn Rodriguez seconded, unanimous approval.