

**Task Force on Infant and Maternal Mortality Among African Americans
Community Engagement Subcommittee**

May 12, 2021

1:00-2:30 PM

Attendance

Present

Shirley Fleming, Co-Chair
Tamela Milan-Alexander, Co-Chair
Tia Britton
Cheryl Floyd
Virginia Julion
Jessica Lamberson
Pamela Roesch
Shirley Scott
Karyn Stewart

IDPH

Alexander Smith

Guests

Isabella Eliopulos, Chicago Documenters
Chloe Vitale

Meeting Minutes

Call to Order, Check-In, and Centering Exercise (Shirley Fleming)

Shirley Fleming called the meeting to order at 1:04 pm. Roll was taken and Shirley checked in with the committee. The group then proceeded to do a short centering exercise.

Approval of Minutes (Shirley Fleming)

The group reviewed the Minutes from the April 2021 meeting. Shirley Scott made a motion to approve the Minutes with a correction of the date on the minutes, Jessica Lamberson seconded and the group unanimously approved.

Listening Guide and Vote (Pamela Roesch, Shirley Scott)

- The group discussed the updates made to the listening guide from previous discussions.
- Started with the introduction section.
 - o Discussed having the facilitator talk about confidentiality prior to the meeting.
 - o The group didn't have any extra edits to this section.
- Before Pregnancy Questions discussion

- Included medical card in the main question instead of having it broke apart from insurance.
 - Updated to ask if they had a way to pay for medical services to cover all bases.
- How will the facilitator be able to keep a difference in the responses between different participants?
- Questions might be posed differently depending on the facilitator.
- Discussed the birth event questions.
 - Wanted to include specific example in the question language to talk about different birth events. Eg. miscarriages, still born.
- Post-partum questions discussion
 - Updated language to state that “sometimes women do not go back to their provider or clinic after their delivery.” Wanted the language to be less presumptuous or judgmental.
 - Added “were there things that you did not receive, but would have been helpful for you?”
 - Added language around probing for support to including supportive services like case management, breastfeeding support, WIC, transportation, bereavement/loss. Doula, healthy start participant.
- Overall, the committee kept a lot of the same questions, but tweaked the language.
- Motion to accept and approve the changes made to the listening guide during the meeting to be used in facilitated group listening sessions 1st Shirley Scott, 2nd Tamela Milan-Alexander
- Next steps, need to submit to IRB.
 - Plan to do a verbal consent for participants.
- Group wanted to discuss who would be the facilitators.
 - They would need to be trained on facilitating sessions and possibly be included on the IRB submission as well.
- Group shared the fliers that they were planning to use to look for women to attend.
 - They have received a stipend, from UIC and Arden Handler’s group, to allow for incentive for women to come and participate.
 - Discussed the timeframe for the sessions to take.

Membership Discussion Updates (Alexander Smith)

- Alex gave a brief update about reaching out to some contacts downstate to possibly join the committee, will keep reaching out.

Next Steps (Shirley Fleming, Committee)

- Committee still wants someone from Everthrive to start coming, group considered talking to Sheila Sanders to see if anyone would want to be a part. They also want someone from downstate, Alex will continue to reach out and provide updates.

- Review Strategic Plan for the Next Meeting.
- IRB Submission.
- The committee spent a good amount of time during the meeting discussing the listening guide and did not get to other agenda items. Plan to discuss these updates at the June meeting.

Public Comment

There were no public comments at this time.

Adjournment

With no further business to discuss, there was a motion to adjourn made by Cheryl Floyd, seconded by Virginia Julion and unanimously approved. The meeting was adjourned at 2:32 pm.