

Meeting Minutes of:

Task Force on Infant and Maternal Mortality Among African Americans

Thursday, May 15, 2025 | 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM | Location: WebEx

Attendees

Members	Members	IDPH	Guest/Non-Voting Members
<u>Present</u>	<u>Not Present (Excused)</u>		
1. Burton, Glendean	1. Burton, Glendean	1. Alexander Smith	1. Cynthia Price
2. Elam, Gloria	2. James, Stephanie	2. Aditi Patel	2. Danielle Brewer
3. Ellison, Angela (Co-Chair)	3. Johnson, Daniel	3. Joquine Nege	3. Ellen mason
4. Fleming, Shirley	4. Logan, Jeanine	4. Leandra Diaz	4. Jessica Lamberson
5. Floyd, Cheryl	5. Martin, Jasmine	5. Trishna Harris	5. Jose Ortiz
6. Gray-Basley, Dara M.	6. Stoller, Ananya		6. Kathy Waligora (presenter)
7. Green, Lisa	7. Versher, Marie		7. Kelly Hubbard
8. Harth, Catherine			8. Tia Britton
9. Julion, Virginia			
10. Lee King, Patricia			
11. Masinter, Lisa (Voting member)			
12. Milan-Alexander, Tamela (Co-Chair)			
13. Wheat, Santana			

MOTIONS

- Motion to approve Minutes from March 20, 2025**
1st Fleming, Shirley, 2nd Harth, Catherine, the group unanimously approved.
- Motion to approve Bylaws with pending edits from Angela Ellison.**
1st Green, Lisa, 2nd Elam, Gloria, the group unanimously approved.
- Motion to approve new member Timika Anderson-Reeves**
1st Harth, Catherine, 2nd Fleming, Shirley, the group unanimously approved.
- Motion to approve new member Anquetette M. Perkins**
1st Gray-Basley, Dara, 2nd Harth, Catherine, the group unanimously approved.
- Motion to adjourn the meeting.**
1st Fleming, Shirley, 2nd Harth, Catherine, the group unanimously approved.

AGENDA ITEMS

Call to Order & Roll Call

Angela Ellison called the meeting to order at 2:06 pm and roll call was conducted. Quorum was reached.

Review and Vote Minutes: March 20, 2025- VOTE

1st Fleming, Shirley, 2nd Harth, Catherine, the group unanimously approved.

IDPH Update

- **IDPH Annual Mandatory Trainings** are available now— Login: <https://OneNet.Illinois.gov/MyTraining> (5 Trainings) --Due 12/31/2025.
- **Maternal Health Summit:** Save the Date, Nov 18-19, 2025- More details to come.
- **Illinois Perinatal Regionalization Map of Hospitals (Levels of Care Virtual Map):** Any suggestions are welcome please email Cara.Bergo@Illinois.gov
<https://dph.illinois.gov/topics-services/life-stages-populations/maternal-child-family-health-services/perinatal-health/infant-mortality/perinatal-regionalization.html>
- **Maternal Health Blueprint:** The purpose of the survey is to identify and understand the various programs and services available across the state to improve the health of Illinois' MCH population and will be a continuous effort to allow updates to the blueprint.
https://uic.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_aWtcnGk4FUQgrpY
- **2023-2024 Report to The General Assembly: Illinois Task Force on Infant and Maternal Mortality Among African Americans**
<https://dph.illinois.gov/about/annual-reports/immr/report-20232024.html>
- **Fetal and Infant Mortality Data Report is now available:**
<https://dph.illinois.gov/content/dam/soi/en/web/idph/publications/idph/topics-and-services/life-stages-populations/maternal-child-family-health-services/maternal-health/perinatal-health/fetal-and-infant-mortality-report-2024.pdf>
- **Birth Equity:** IDPH Awards \$4.5 Million in Grants to Support Governor Pritzker's Birth Equity. 12 Groups that Provide Innovative, Equity-Focused Maternal Care for Pregnant Illinoisans.
<https://dph.illinois.gov/resource-center/news/2025/january/release-20250129.html#:~:text=January%209%2C%202025-.IDPH%20Awards%20%244.5%20Million%20in%20Grants%20to%20Support,Birth%20Equity%20Efforts%20Across%20Illinois&text=C HICAGO%20%E2%80%93%20The%20Illinois%20Department%20of,Pritzker's%202024%20Birth%20Equity%20Initiative>

Membership (VOTE)

- **Timika Anderson-Reeves and Anquetette M. Perkins** were unanimously approved as new members, awaiting final IDPH director approval.
- **Motion to approve new member Timika Anderson-Reeves**
1st Harth, Catherine, 2nd Fleming, Shirley, the group unanimously approved.
- **Motion to approve new member Anquetette M. Perkins**
1st Gray-Basley, Dara, 2nd Harth, Catherine, the group unanimously approved.

SWOT (Strengths, Weakness, Opportunity, and Threats) Conversation:

- Discussion lead by Angela Ellison
- Assessing the MCH landscape considering the new political agenda.
- Strengths identified include Illinois being a supportive state for maternal and child health programming and having a strong coalition in MCH world throughout Illinois.
- Weaknesses include lack of consistent organization and insufficient representation of families navigating systems.
- Opportunities for blueprint development and community engagement.
- Threats include health systems closing and potential Medicaid cuts threatening hospital sustainability.

Bylaws Revisions—Updates

- Proposed changes discussed and approved pending legal review.
- Three-year terms with limit of two consecutive full terms.
- Officers may serve additional two terms if elected to officer position.
- Immediate past chair may serve one additional term.
- Subcommittees no longer require quorum - motions approved by majority of members present.
- Motion to approve Bylaws with pending edits from Angela Ellison.**
1st Green, Lisa, 2nd Elam, Gloria, the group unanimously approved.

IMMT: Memo on Hospital Closures -Status

- West Sub ending OB services and Trinity eliminating inpatient deliveries.
- Advocate's plan for OB-GYN care in existing facilities with planned transportation to Christ Hospital for deliveries.
- Issue transferred to Systems subcommittee for continued monitoring.
- IDPH provided guidance on Health Facilities and Services Review Board process.
- Clarification→ Committee members can submit letters as individuals, not as IMMT representatives.**
- Letters must be submitted before June 3rd when the Review Board will be voting.
- Public comments are still open. Public comments can be received by the board staff DPH.hfsrb@Illinois.gov → any time before June 3rd. The State board meeting will be held at the Municipal Bolingbrook Golf Club, 2001 Rodeo Dr., Bolingbrook, Illinois (6/3/25). At this hearing there will be an opportunity for public comment. These are limited to 2 minutes or less and will be cut off if longer due to total meeting time available. **HFSRB welcomes all comments and points of view.**
- The links to the general project page.
<https://hfsrb.illinois.gov/project.24-016-chicago-south-side-birth-center.html>
<https://hfsrb.illinois.gov/project.24-014-osf-st-elizabeth-hospital---peru.html>
<https://hfsrb.illinois.gov/project/project-search.html>

Guest Presenter/EverThrive: Medicaid Cuts Legislative Updates

- Kathy Waligora, kwaligora@everthriveil.org from EverThrive presented a comprehensive update on federal Medicaid threats.
- Congress pushing \$625 billion Medicaid cuts over 10 years to fund tax cuts for billionaires and corporations.
- Action strategy includes delay tactics and phone banking every Friday at noon.
- Illinois is one of 12 "trigger" states where any reduction of the Medicaid expansion FMAP below 90% would automatically require the State to end the expansion. 305 ILCS 5/5-2(18)
- Most people would lose coverage would not be eligible for financial assistance to enroll in the Marketplace.

Events/Community Sharing

- Examining Systems of Risk Appropriate Maternal Care with Systems Science: Led by LAUREN N. STEIMLE**
<https://uofi.app.box.com/s/sbohmfr8qha3tz6nc1stfabtqe3nompz> April 3, 2025 | 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM
- Open Position: **Project Director** for the Transforming Maternal Health (TMaH) Model
<https://illinois.jobs2web.com/job/Chicago-Transforming-Maternal-Health-Project-Director-%28Senior-Public-Service-Administrator-Opt-1%29-IL-60607/1289137600/>

The Health Facilities & Services Review Board (HFSRB) Procedures

- HFSRB Procedures PowerPoint was presented.

New Business

None

Adjournment

With nothing further to discuss, **Fleming, Shirley** made a motion to adjourn, **Harth, Catherine** seconded the motion, and the group unanimously approved.