

## 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
<b>Present</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Burton, Glendean</li> <li>2. Elam, Gloria</li> <li>3. <b>Ellison, Angela (Co-Chair)</b></li> <li>4. Fleming, Shirley</li> <li>5. Floyd, Cheryl</li> <li>6. Gray-Basley, Dara M.</li> <li>7. Green, Lisa</li> <li>8. Harth, Catherine</li> <li>9. Julion, Virginia</li> <li>10. Lee King, Patricia</li> <li>11. Masinter, Lisa (Voting member)</li> <li>12. <b>Milan-Alexander, Tamela (Co-Chair)</b></li> <li>13. Wheat, Santina</li> </ol>	<b>Not Present (Excused)</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Burton, Glendean</li> <li>2. James, Stephanie</li> <li>3. Johnson, Daniel</li> <li>4. Logan, Jeanine</li> <li>5. Martin, Jasmine</li> <li>6. Stoller, Ananya</li> <li>7. Versher, Marie</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Alexander Smith</li> <li>2. Aditi Patel</li> <li>3. Joquine Nege</li> <li>4. Leandra Diaz</li> <li>5. Trishna Harris</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Cynthia Price</li> <li>2. Danielle Brewer</li> <li>3. Ellen mason</li> <li>4. Jessica Lamberson</li> <li>5. Jose Ortiz</li> <li>6. Kathy Waligora (presenter)</li> <li>7. Kelly Hubbard</li> <li>8. Tia Britton</li> </ol>

### **MOTIONS**

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

1<sup>st</sup> Fleming, Shirley, 2<sup>nd</sup> 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](mailto: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](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/immt/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=CHICAGO%20E2%80%93%20The%20Illinois%20Department%20of,Pritzker's%202024%20Birth%20Equity%20Initiative>

### **Membership (VOTE)**

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

1<sup>st</sup> Green, Lisa, 2<sup>nd</sup> 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](mailto: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](mailto: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/sbohmf8qha3tz6nc1stfabtqe3nompz> April 3, 2025 | 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM
- Open Position: **Project Director** for the Transforming Maternal Health (TMH) 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.