

Meeting Minutes of:

Task Force on Infant and Maternal Mortality Among African Americans

Thursday, July 17, 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. Elam, Gloria	1. Aditi Patel	1. Cynthia Price
2. Elam, Gloria	2. James, Stephanie	2. Alexander Smith	2. Jose Ortiz
3. Ellison, Angela (Chair)	3. Logan, Jeanine	3. Allison L. Nickrent	3. Kelly Hubbard, EverThrive
4. Fleming, Shirley	4. Martin, Jasmine	4. Cara Bergo	Presenter
5. Floyd, Cheryl	5. Stoller, Ananya	5. Eugenia Olison	4. Tia Britton
6. Gray-Basley, Dara M.	6. Versher, Marie	6. Jessica Bounds	5. Ellen Mason
7. Green, Lisa	7. Wheat, Santana	7. Joquine Nege	6. Timika Anderson-Reeves
8. Harth, Catherine		8. Leandra Diaz	7. Jennie Pinkwater
9. Johnson, Daniel		9. Sierra M. Wilson	
10. Julion, Virginia		10. Tonya Hedges	
11. Lee King, Patricia		11. Trishna Harris	
12. Masinter, Lisa IDPH (Voting member)			
13. Milan-Alexander, Tamela (Co-Chair)			

MOTIONS

- Motion to approve Minutes from May 15, 2025**
1st Patricia Lee King, 2nd Cheryl Floyd, the group unanimously approved
- Motion to adjourn the meeting.**
1st Virginia Julion, 2nd Cheryl Floyd, the group unanimously approved.

AGENDA ITEMS

Call to Order & Roll Call

Milan-Alexander, Tamela called the meeting to order at 2:03 pm and roll call was conducted. Quorum was reached.

Review and Vote Minutes: May 15, 2025- VOTE

1st Patricia Lee King, 2nd Cheryl Floyd, the group unanimously approved

IDPH UPDATE

- IDPH Annual Mandatory Trainings — 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.
- EMTALA guidance has been updated, but Illinois state laws will continue to protect emergency and reproductive health services.
- Maternal Health Blueprint: Developed with input from over 90 organizations, is being finalized for graphic design.
- Title V Plan's needs assessment: will be publicly available by July 2025- highlighting its importance as it funds 60% of the IDPH MCH
- Budget for Fiscal Year 2026 shows Title V funding is reduced but not eliminated, with concerns over sustaining state-funded work.
- Staffing updates: A new team member joining to manage Title V grants, with several key positions soon to be filled to enhance
- 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>
- 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>
- IDPH has issued a letter advocating for Narcan availability in hospitals as part of the Illinois DOPP program to counter opioid overdoses. Illinois Saves Overdose <https://www.ilsavesod.org/Forms/DOPP>

EVERTHRIVE LEGISLATIVE UPDATES: Kelly Hubbard (Presenter)

- Five bills passed during last legislative session led by advocacy efforts: HB2464, HB2978, HB3709, SB212 and HB2423.
 1. HB2464 INS-Health/Neonatal Cost Share: An Illinois House Bill passed by the 104th General Assembly (2025-2026) related to neonatal intensive care coverage. It has passed both houses and is awaiting action by the Governor as of June 17, 2025.
Amends the Accident and Health Article of the Illinois Insurance Code. Provides that no health insurer may charge a patient out-of-network rates for neonatal care at any hospital.
<https://www.ilga.gov/Legislation/BillStatus?DocTypeID=HB&DocNum=2464&GAID=18&SessionID=114&LegID=160242>
 2. HB2978 The Family Neonatal Intensive Care Leave Act: is a proposed bill that would grant eligible employees unpaid leave to care for a child in the neonatal intensive care unit (NICU). The bill would provide 10 days of leave for employees of mid-sized companies (16-50 employees) and 20 days for those at larger companies (51+ employees).
<https://www.ilga.gov/Legislation/BillStatus?DocNum=2978&GAID=18&DocTypeID=HB&SessionID=114&GA=104>
 3. HB3709 Higher Ed-Student Hlth Service: This bill amends the Public Higher Education Act to require public colleges and universities in Illinois to provide comprehensive reproductive healthcare services to students, starting in the 2025-2026 school year. Specifically, the bill mandates that each public institution with student health services must offer access to healthcare professionals who can prescribe and dispense contraception and medication abortion.
<https://www.ilga.gov/Legislation/BillStatus?DocTypeID=HB&DocNum=3709&GAID=18&SessionID=114&LegID=162529>
 4. SB212 Nursing Mothers in Workplace: Amends the Nursing Mothers in the Workplace Act. Provides that an employer shall provide 30 minutes of paid break time (rather than reasonable break time) to an employee who needs to express breast milk for her nursing infant child each time the employee has the need to express milk for one year after the child's birth.
<https://www.ilga.gov/Legislation/BillStatus?DocNum=212&GAID=18&GA=104&DocTypeID=SB&LegID=157499&SessionID=114>
 5. HB2423 Medicaid-Maternal HLTH-Doulas: Amends the Medical Assistance Article of the Illinois Public Aid Code. Requires hospitals and birthing centers to adopt and maintain written policies and procedures authorizing a patient enrolled in the medical assistance program to select an Illinois Medicaid certified and enrolled doula of the patient's choice to accompany the patient within the facility's premises for the purposes of providing support before, during, and after labor and childbirth, and during the patient's entire postpartum stay.
<https://www.ilga.gov/Legislation/BillStatus?DocTypeID=HB&DocNum=2423&GAID=18&SessionID=114&LegID=160177>

BYLAWS REVISIONS—UPDATES

Proposed changes have been shared with IDPH legal, more to come.

SUB-COMMITTEE UPDATES

A. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Sub Listening Sessions Report:

- Five listening sessions conducted with Black women who delivered between 2022-2025 – Mainly, downstate participants.
- Five key themes identified: **Diverse Perinatal Experiences, Feeling Overlooked/Ignored, Vulnerability and Fear, Barriers to Accessing Care, Need for Information Support.**
- Policy recommendations developed: Standardized Respectful Care, Expanded Community Services, Mandatory Postpartum Education, Workforce Training on Implicit Bias, Wraparound Supports Funding.

B. PROGRAMS and BEST PRACTICES

- reviewed three programs (Family Case Management, Healthy Start, Mothers and Babies) with documented recommendations focusing on relationship-building, resource access, and data collection needs
- Family Connects program currently under review with comprehensive information available due to Chicago program's five-year anniversary

C. SYSTEMS

- Talked about "Access" to care issues, with a small subcommittee scheduled to meet in late August to explore deeper into research and data.
- Vaccine policy discussions held with confusion from CDC changes.
- Alternative recommendations from ACOG, AAP, IDPH, and Chicago Department of Public Health continue to support previous vaccine schedules.
- Insurance coverage uncertainty regarding vaccines no longer on CDC recommended schedule.
- Legal challenges filed by many organizations including AAP and ACOG against federal policy changes.

EVENTS/COMMUNITY SHARING

- **CIDRAP's Vaccine Integrity Project:** is an initiative dedicated to safeguarding vaccine use in the U.S. so that it remains grounded in the best available science, free from external influence, and focused on optimizing protection of individuals, families, and communities against vaccine-preventable diseases. <https://www.cidrap.umn.edu/vaccine-integrity-project>
- **RFK Jr.'s vaccine policy sparks a lawsuit from the American Academy of Pediatrics:** A handful of leading medical organizations are suing Health Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. over recent changes to federal COVID-19 vaccine recommendations — part of what they characterize as a larger effort to undermine trust in vaccines among the American public. <https://www.npr.org/sections/shots-health-news/2025/07/08/nx-s1-5459978/rfk-jr-vaccine-pediatrics-public-health-lawsuit>
- **Glendean Burton:** will provide an update on ECCS/UNSS work
- **National Medical Association (NMA):** Annual Meeting will be held from July 19-23, 2025- Chicago Hilton. The focus will be Addressing healthcare policy challenges, health equity, and access to care, with a focus on the needs of Black physicians and the communities they serve. Get ready to join us in Chicago, IL, July 19-23, 2025, for the Annual Convention and Scientific Assembly, the largest gathering of Black physicians and healthcare professionals in the country! <https://nmanet.org/event/2025-nma-annual-convention-scientific-assembly/>
- **Breastfeeding Resource Health Fair** -- First Ladies Health Initiative's, Chicago-- 9/20/25, 10am
- **Timika Anderson-Reeves:** Invite to present on Home Visiting Program (reimbursement process) - Oct IMMT Task Force meeting.

NEW BUSINESS: None

ADJOURNMENT: With nothing further to discuss, **Virginia Julion** made a motion to adjourn, **Cheryl Floyd** seconded the motion, and the group unanimously approved.