

Meeting Minutes of:

Task Force on Infant and Maternal Mortality Among African Americans

Thursday, December 4, 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. Brodie, Paula	1. Floyd, Cheryl	1. Aditi Patel	1. Abby Holicky
2. Burton, Glendean	2. James, Stephanie	2. Alana Rivera	2. Anquenette Perkins
3. Elam, Gloria	3. Logan, Jeanine	3. Alexander Smith	3. Crystal Tyler
4. Ellison, Angela (Chair)	4. Martin, Jasmine	4. Emily Spangler	4. Cynthia Price
5. Fleming, Shirley	5. Stoller, Ananya	5. Jessica Wang	5. Jose Ortiz
6. Gray-Basley, Dara	6. Wheat, Santana	6. Joquine Nege	6. Spangler, Emily
7. Green, Lisa		7. Julie Davis	7. Timika Anderson-Reeves
8. Harth, Catherine		8. Leandra Diaz	
9. Johnson, Daniel		9. Tonya Hedges	
10. Julion, Virginia		10. Trishna Harris	
11. Lee King, Patricia			
12. Masinter, Lisa (Voting member)			
13. Milan-Alexander, Tamela (Co-Chair)			
14. Versher, Marie			

MOTIONS

1. Motion to Approve Minutes from October 16, 2025.

1st Glendean Burton, 2nd Tamela Milan-Alexander, Daniel Johnson & Shirley Fleming (abstained), the group unanimously approved.

2. Motion to Approve Minutes from November 20, 2025.

1st Patricia Lee King, 2nd Tamela Milan-Alexander, Dara Gray-Basley (abstained), the group unanimously approved.

3. Motion for the 2026 Chair and Co-Chair

Chair Nomination: Tamela Milan-Alexander

1st Shirley Fleming, 2nd Gloria Elam, the group unanimously approved.

Co-Chair Nomination: Patricia Lee King

1st Glendean Burton, 2nd Paula Brodie, the group unanimously approved.

4. Motion to Adjourn the Meeting.

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



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AGENDA ITEMS

CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL

Angela Allison called the meeting to order at 2:05 pm. Roll call was conducted, and Quorum was reached.

MINUTES: REVIEW AND VOTE

Minutes from October 16, 2025.

1st Glendean Burton, 2nd Tamela Milan-Alexander, Daniel Johnson & Shirley Fleming (abstained), the group unanimously approved.

Minutes from November 20, 2025.

1st Patricia Lee King, 2nd Tamela Milan-Alexander, Dara Gray-Basley (abstained), the group unanimously approved.

IDPH UPDATE

1. IDPH Annual Mandatory Trainings: Login: <https://OneNet.Illinois.gov/MyTraining> (5 Trainings) --Due 12/31/2025.
 - The team demonstrated the urgent need to complete mandatory trainings by **December 31st at 11:59pm**, with fewer than five people having completed them so far, prompting legal concern about compliance.
 - All members were instructed to **email screenshots**/training certificated to Ms. Diaz.
 - Technical assistance is being provided for those facing login issues, with an expected two-week delay in profile setup. Should tech issues arise, please contact IDPH ASAP.
2. New IMMT Webex Settings: New Webex security settings were introduced and will continue into 2026, requiring members to adapt to these protocols for future meetings – Webinars. All regular Webex meeting for 2026 will be converted to **webinars**.
3. HR Updates
 - A new Perinatal Lead Nurse (**Alana Rivera**) has started and will be supporting with the upcoming 640 system update implementation.
 - Two positions: Title 5 Director and Title 5 Coordinator, are actively in the interview phase.
 - Budget for Fiscal Year 2026 shows Title V funding is reduced but not eliminated.
4. IL Perinatal Regionalization Map of Hospitals (Levels of Care): 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>
5. IDPH IL Maternal Mortality Data Report <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/maternal-mortality-data-report-2025.pdf>

2026 IMMT MEETINGS: SCHEDULE

1. The group agreed to maintain the current meeting schedule of quarterly meetings on the third Thursday Pending incoming 2026 Chair.

BYLAWS: UPDATES

2. The task force acknowledged the need to finalize bylaw language and definitions regarding officer titles with legal counsel by Winter 2026, targeting a formal vote in the first quarter of 2026.
3. A IDPH legal meeting is to be scheduled promptly in early January to align governance language and confirm voting procedures.
4. This legal review is critical to clarifying roles and formalizing leadership structures for compliance and transparency.
5. Bylaws remain under review, with a plan to finalize updates by the Winter 2026, especially regarding membership terms and leadership rotation for subcommittees
6. Chairs and Co-Chair's remain subject to term limits, ensuring leadership rotation while general members have ongoing eligibility with periodic check-ins.

TASK FORCE: 2026 NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT UPDATES

1. Nominations for Chair and Co-Chair were closed during this meeting. Both leadership roles are now filled, enabling the Task Force to move forward with governance and planning.
2. **Tamela Milan Alexander** was unanimously approved as the new Chair, effective January 1, 2026, after nominations and a public vote with full committee support.
3. The voting process was adapted for virtual anonymity, with members sending individual votes to the secretary.
4. **Patricia Lee King** was unanimously elected as Co-Chair (vice chair) of the Task Force, following nomination and open voting with full committee support.

SNAP: BENEFITS WORK REQUIREMENTS: This will be discussed in one of the winter 2026 meetings.



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PRESENTERS: None

EverThrive: No Updates

SUB-COMMITTEE UPDATES

1. IMMT Annual Report

- Lisa Masinter will coordinate deadlines and deliverables to ensure submission.
- This documentation will support transparency and strategic alignment across committees.

2. Community Engagement Subcommittee

- Abby Holicky provided updates on her work with the University of Illinois includes developing innovative, action-oriented recommendations beyond broad reports.
- Angela and Abby highlighted the need to translate data and reports into actionable legislative recommendations to address systemic racism in maternal health care.
- The group recognized a pressing need to move beyond reporting to enforcement and systemic change.
- The group discussed the value of community storytelling and data collection to identify offenders and inform advocacy.

3. Programs and Best Practices Subcommittee

- The Programs and Best Practices Committee is advancing its review and expansion of maternal health interventions with a focus on innovation and community relevance.
- The committee completed a review of the Family Connects home visiting program and formulated recommendations for inclusion in the task force's annual report. This review informs evidence-based program adoption and scaling decisions.
- Their next focus is Centering Pregnancy Next, with plans to assess its fit and effectiveness for task force goals.
- This program emphasizes group prenatal care models shown to improve outcomes.
- Evaluation will consider scalability and community acceptance.
- The committee plans to conduct a survey to identify smaller, innovative projects that may offer new approaches to maternal health.
- This survey aims to refresh the program portfolio with emerging strategies.

4. Systems Subcommittee

- The Systems Subcommittee has concentrated efforts on key social determinants affecting maternal and infant mortality, preparing groundwork for 2026 planning.
- Over the past four months, the Systems Committee analyzed three core access issues: provider availability, housing stability, and food security as contributing factors to mortality disparities.
- They have collected national and state data to understand trends and barriers.
- The dynamic nature of housing and food access challenges requires ongoing monitoring.
- The committee plans to produce a report summarizing activities and outlining a 2026 work plan.
- The committee is prioritizing provider access strategies focused on increasing providers of color and improving workforce sustainability.
- Initiatives include support for STEM pathways, loan repayment programs, and advocacy for malpractice reform limiting non-economic damages.
- Catherine Harth noted the importance of addressing systemic factors that deter provider participation in maternal health.
- A written summary of the Systems Committee's work and future actions will be prepared for inclusion in the annual task force report.

EVENTS/COMMUNITY SHARING

- Timika Anderson-Reeves shared: The Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services (HFS): **Maternal Child Health Provider Town Hall on December 9, 2025, at 1pm!**
During the Town Hall you will hear about exciting updates on doula and lactation consultant provider types and receive guidance on how to enroll in Medicaid as a Home Visiting Organization. Don't miss out on this informative opportunity! Be sure to attend and be a part of this dynamic maternal and child health event! Registration details can be found at the following link:
<https://illinois.webex.com/webappng/sites/illinois/meeting/register/32fe7bd4b3714f08bd639047a8489afe?ticket=4832534b00000076bd5df2f3c95971f2dd68ee26fec71eada992d5d2feb47feff1eb61828a4cae8×tamp=1764883199214&RGID=r33d441a224b47e18a26ffde4ee8d0f14&isAutoPopRogisterForm=false>
- **HV Provider Notice:** <https://hfs.illinois.gov/medicalproviders/notices/notice.prn251121a.html>
- **Abby Holicky, University of Illinois Chicago, shared the following link:** <https://irthapp.com/>

NEW BUSINESS: None

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

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