

Meeting Minutes of:

Task Force on Infant and Maternal Mortality Among African Americans (IMMT)

Programs & Best Practices Subcommittee

Date: Tuesday, May 20, 2025 | 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. | Location: WebEx

Attendees:

<u>Members in Attendance</u>	<u>IDPH</u>	<u>Guest</u>	<u>Members Not in Attendance</u>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Dara Gray Basley (Chair) 2. Patricia Lee King (Vice-Chair) 3. Jose Ortiz 4. Cynthia Price 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Aditi Patel 2. Leandra Díaz 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Anquetette Perkins 	<p>Excused:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Joanna Su

MOTIONS

1. **Motion to approve minutes from 3/18/2025 meeting.**
1st Jose Ortiz and 2nd Cynthia Price, the group unanimously approved.
2. **Motion to Adjourn.**
1st Cynthia Price and 2nd Jose Ortiz, the group unanimously approved.
With nothing further to discuss, meeting was adjourned.

AGENDA ITEMS

CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL

The Chair, Dara Gray Basley, called the meeting to order at approximately 11:03 A.M. Leandra Díaz conducted the roll call and asked guests to respond in the chat box with their name and association.

REVIEW/APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Motion to approve minutes from **3/18/2025** meeting.
1st Jose Ortiz and 2nd Cynthia Price, the group unanimously approved.

IDPH UPDATES

- 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>
- **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%20%E2%80%93%20The%20Illinois%20Department%20of,Pritzker's%202024%20Birth%20Equity%20Initiative>

COMPLETE REVIEW FORM for FAMILY CONNECTS

- Reviewed list of programs evaluated: Family Case Management, Family Connects Illinois, Healthy Start & Mothers and Babies Program (Mental Health Focus)
- Focus on reducing Black infant and maternal mortality in program reviews; synthesis of best practices identified. Historical data shows lower birth weight and infant mortality rates in Family Case Management program, but African American participants still lag.
- Reviewed historical data (from 1996, reported 2004) showing lower birth weight and infant mortality rates for program participants, except for African Americans.
- Program strengths: Linkage to vital records and comprehensive case management.
- Need for program evolution emphasized due to outdated technology.
- Recommendation to seek closing reports for lessons learned, as the program is ending.
- Gather and review any closing reports or lessons learned from Family Case Management program contacts, since the program is ending.

HEALTHY START PROGRAM REVIEW

- Healthy Start program targeted high-risk Black populations, emphasizing community-driven approaches. Challenges include data limitations and difficulty engaging men.
- Ongoing efforts to standardize data collection; need for more outcome data noted.
- Strengths included community-driven approach, smaller caseloads, and strong relationship-building with clients.
- Challenges included data limitations, program variability, and difficulty engaging men due to work schedules.
- Recent efforts to standardize evaluation and data collection across sites, ongoing need for more outcome data.

MOTHERS AND BABIES PROGRAM (MENTAL HEALTH FOCUS)

- Strengths included adaptability, ease of training, and focus on self-care and journaling.
- Prepare a recap document/table summarizing findings from previous program reviews for discussion at the next meeting.
- Mothers and Babies program demonstrated decrease in depression symptoms amongst participants, particularly Black mothers.
- Recommendations to integrate mental health services into maternal health programs to improve overall outcomes.

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP AND RECRUITMENT

- Encouraged recruitment of new members, especially those connected to maternal child health programs. Considered diversity of roles and opinions for innovation.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Recording shared: Examining Systems of Risk Appropriate Maternal Care with Systems Science: Led by LAUREN N. STEIMLE
<https://uofi.app.box.com/s/sbohmfr8qha3tz6nc1stfibtqe3nompz> April 3, 2025 | 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM

ADJOURNMENT

1st Cynthia Price and 2nd Jose Ortiz, the group unanimously approved. With nothing further to discuss, meeting was adjourned.