

Meeting Minutes of:

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

Programs & Best Practices Subcommittee

Date: Tuesday, December 2, 2025 | 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. | Location: WebEx

Attendees:

<u>Members in Attendance</u>	<u>Members Not in Attendance</u>	<u>IDPH</u>	<u>Guest</u>
1. Patricia Lee King (Lead) 2. Joanna Su 3. Jose Ortiz 4. Cynthia Price	Excused: 1. Elam, Gloria 2. Gray Basley, Dara (Lead)	1. Aditi Patel 2. Alexander Smith 3. Leandra Díaz 4. Julie Davis 5. Kelly, Hilary	1. Perkins, Anquenne 2. Michele Hennessey (Assistant Director of Family Health at DuPage County Health Dept.) 3. Miraj Patel

MOTIONS

1. Motion to approve minutes from the 7/15/25 meeting.

1st Joanna Su, 2nd Jose Ortiz, the group unanimously approved.

2. Motion to approve minutes from the 10/28/25 meeting.

1st Jose Ortiz, 2nd Cynthia Price, the group unanimously approved.

3. Motion to Adjourn.

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

AGENDA ITEMS

CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL

The Lead, **Patricia Lee King**, called the meeting to order at approximately 11:04 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: VOTED

- **Motion to approve minutes from the 7/15/25 meeting.**
1st Joanna Su, 2nd Jose Ortiz, the group unanimously approved.
- **Motion to approve minutes from the 10/28/25 meeting.**
1st Jose Ortiz, 2nd Cynthia Price, the group unanimously approved.

IDPH UPDATES

- **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.
- **Budget for Fiscal Year 2026** shows Title V funding is reduced but not eliminated, with concerns over sustaining state-funded work.
- **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>
- 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://share.google/8VbYcoZ6HSxDfg6XW>
- **Maternal Health Blueprint: LIVE**
Press Release: <https://gov-pritzker-newsroom.prezly.com/gov-pritzker-releases-illinois-birth-equity-blueprint>
Document: <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/blueprint-for-birth-equity-2025.pdf>
- **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>

FUTURE LEADERSHIP OF PROGRAM & BEST PRACTICES

- Send nominations for Chair and Co-Chair positions and candidate suggestions to Leandra.Diaz2@illinois.gov.
- IMMT Main Task Force Co-Chair continues to be vacant.
- Members were encouraged to self-nominate or suggest candidates for leadership roles, with upcoming votes scheduled 12/4/25 (IMMT TF Meeting).
- Attendance protocols were reinforced by requesting full names and affiliations in chat for accurate record-keeping.
- The group discussed managing meeting disruptions by promptly removing unauthorized participants to maintain focus and confidentiality.

PROGRAM SELECTION AND FUTURE REVIEW STRATEGY

- The committee nominated **CenteringPregnancy**, **Better Birth Outcomes (BBO)**, and **Illinois Birth Equity Initiative**, as the next program for formal review, balancing the need to evaluate a well-established model with available evaluation data against emerging innovative approaches.
- Members agreed to start reviewing **CenteringPregnancy**.
 - **Note: Topics to review and analyze in future meetings**
 - For better birth outcomes, **CenteringPregnancy** offers group prenatal care with peer support
 - **Better Birth Outcomes (BBO)** (often BBO-C/Comprehensive in Illinois) provides personalized, nurse-led home visits for high-risk pregnant individuals, connecting them to services like WIC, doulas, and nutritionists, aiming to reduce maternal/infant mortality.
 - **The Illinois Birth Equity Initiative** is a broader state plan to address systemic disparities through quality care, access, and coordination, making BBO and Centering key *strategies* within it, not competing programs. Your choice depends on your need for peer support (Centering) versus intensive home-based case management (BBO) within a larger equity framework. <https://www.dupagehealth.org/811/Better-Birth-Outcomes---Comprehensive-BB>
<https://dph.illinois.gov/resource-center/news/2025/september/release-20250925.html>
- The group acknowledged the importance of including newer or smaller-scale programs and proposed developing a survey tool to gather nominations and contacts for future reviews.
- The plan for 2026 includes developing and circulating a survey and compiling input before the next meeting to prioritize reviews based on member interest and data availability.
- The committee continues to focus on programs that address Black and African American maternal and infant mortality with accessible data and willing implementation partners.

CONVERSATIONS WITH FAMILY CONNECTS

- The committee completed a detailed evaluation of the Family Connects universal postpartum nurse home visiting program. Highlighting its strong reach into high-disparity areas and Medicaid populations, while raising sustainability concerns around funding and staffing models.
- The program serves 46% of families with the highest disparity zip codes and 59% Medicaid recipients, evidencing targeted impact despite universal eligibility.
- Nurses conduct a one-time home visit 2-4 weeks postpartum, with follow-up calls and case conferences, emphasizing clinical quality and mental health screening.
- Jose Ortiz and Cynthia Price raised sustainability questions, suggesting expanded roles for community health workers. In hopes to reduce nurse workload and maintain universal access amid shifting Medicaid reimbursement models.
- The group identified the need for a cost-savings analysis to quantify reductions in emergency care expenses, supporting future funding advocacy.
- Hospital partnerships were recognized as critical for success, with recommendations to integrate a “village care” model spanning prenatal to early childhood services for holistic support.
- Challenges include variable hospital recruitment, funding uncertainties post-grant, and the need for longer-term outcome.
- The review will inform the general recommendations document- Positioning Family Connects as a key equity focused model with areas for strategic development.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

No public comment provided.

ADJOURNMENT:

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