

Meeting Minutes of:

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

Programs & Best Practices Subcommittee

Date: Tuesday, August 29, 2023 | 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. | Location: WebEx

Attendees:

<u>Members in Attendance</u>	<u>IDPH</u>	<u>Guest</u>	<u>Members Not in Attendance</u>
Dara Gray Basley (Chair) Patricia Lee King (Vice-Chair) Angela Ellison Cynthia Price Ellen Mason Joanna Su Jose Ortiz Santina Wheat	Leandra Díaz Lisa Masinter	Melanie Ferguson	Excused: Gloria Elam Deanna Durica

MOTIONS

- 1. Motion to approve minutes from February 2023 meeting.**
1st Santina Wheat & 2nd Ellen Mason, the group unanimously approved.
- 2. Motion to Adjourn.**
1st Santina Wheat & 2nd Ellen Mason, the group unanimously approved.

AGENDA ITEMS

Call to Order & Roll Call

The Chair, Dara Gray Basley, called the meeting to order at approximately 3:04 P.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

- The agenda was reviewed, and Minutes from the **February 2023** meeting was reviewed. Santina Wheat & Ellen Mason made motion to accept the minutes as written- Subcommittee unanimously approved.

IDPH Updates

- Virtual meeting continue to be accepted; however, in-person attendance is suggested but NOT Mandatory.
- Should you wish to attend in-person, an email is required to notify the IDPH security team.
- Members who attend in-person, a travel reimbursement will be provided (a travel voucher will need to be completed). This is for members only. Travel reimbursement = parking cost and tolls.
- Conference Room Locations:
 - A. Chicago: 122 S Michigan Ave, Room 711, Chicago, IL 60603
 - B. Springfield: 535 W Jefferson St, 5th floor, Springfield, IL 62702
- Wi-Fi: Both conference rooms have Wi-Fi. Due to security measures, at times are not reliable.
- Title V Division Chief/Director: This position is moving forward with great progress. Candidates have been approved and interviews are being scheduled.

New Business

- Program Review Form: This form was analyzed and edited to be more in uniform with the goals of the committee.
- Mothers and Babies: A Postpartum Depression Intervention: This article was reviewed.
 - Postpartum depression touches 20-40% of women, and in turn, their children. The goal is to address postpartum depression on a large scale, by bringing a brief, affordable intervention.
- Discrimination has increased in women who are overweight while pregnant. Doctors need to not discriminate on women who are overweight and assume that the only reason for the patient's conditions are due to the BMI. These women have shown to have other conditions that lead to their health disparities- Such as a hormonal imbalance, mental conditions, and their environments. Doctors need to be less dismissive and follow-up on the other health conditions.
- Mental Health: How does mental health lead to mortality in pregnant women?
 - The lack of psychologist not attending pregnant mental patients, is concerning.
 - Due to not feeling comfortable caring for a pregnant patient, doctors are not accepting women in behavioral health hospitals/centers.
 - The lack of psychologist not attending pregnant patients with mental health conditions, is concerning. This subject will be looked at further for consideration.
 - There is a need for improved regulations in mental institution toward pregnant women.
 - There is a need to accept pregnant women in behavioral health institutions. Chicago mental health/behavioral health institutions are considering reopening establishments.
 - Perinatal mood disorders in pregnant women were found in a particular study. This study demonstrated that for every five years of increasing age and five years increase in BMI, researchers saw an increase in the perinatal mood and anxiety disorder.
 - Body mass index might be a contributing factor to mood/mental disorders, but usually not the only factor.

Share of Events/Updates

1. <https://mchb.hrsa.gov/programs-impact/screening-treatment-maternal-depression-related-behavioral-disorders-program-mdrbd>
2. <https://www.psych.uic.edu/clinical/adult-services/womens-mental-health-and-reproductive-psychiatry>
<https://www.mmhla.org>
3. <https://www.nichd.nih.gov/ncmhhep/initiatives/moms-mental-health-matters/find-help>

Public Comment: No public comment provided.

Persons interested in making public comment are encouraged to contact the Office of Women's Health at 312-814-5302. If there are speakers remaining after the fifteen (15) minutes allotted for public testimony, who registered prior to the start of the meeting and who have not spoken, they may be permitted to provide their testimony at the conclusion of the meeting, at the discretion of the Chair.

Adjournment

With nothing further to discuss, Santina Wheat made the motion to adjourn, and Ellen Mason seconded the motion and the group unanimously approved.