

**Infant and Maternal Mortality Task Force Among African Americans (IMMT)*****Systems Subcommittee*****Tuesday, June 3, 2024, 12:30 pm | 1 hour | (UTC-06:00) Central Time (US & Canada)****Meeting Minutes****Present**

Arden Handler  
Catherine Harth  
Daniel Johnson  
Glenda Morris Burnett  
Glendean Burton  
Jessica Lamberson

**IDPH**

Trishna Harris  
Leandra Diaz  
Jennifer Seo  
Eugenia Olison

**Guests**

Virginia Julion

**Call to Order**

The subcommittee meeting began at 12:36pm. Roll was taken and the agenda reviewed.

**Approval of Minutes**

Minutes from the April 22, 2025, meeting was approved. Jessica Lamberson made the motion to approve, Catherine Harth seconded the motion, and the minutes were unanimously approved.

**Agenda Item:** Systems Recruitment

**Discussion:** Members will be aging out of the main task force committee and will need to work on getting more members from task force to serve as chair. Chair of subcommittee must be a member of main TF.

**Action items:** Leandra to speak with legal

**Agenda Item:** Vaccine letter update

**Discussion:** Keep letter with recommendations same regardless of latest updates from RFK, Jr due to CDC still recommending the list of vaccines on letter other than COVID for pregnant women.

**Agenda Item:** Work going forward

**Discussion:** ACCESS to care assigned to 3 work groups. Virginia Julion speak on changes with some of the facilities, Advocate Trinity and West Suburban. Committee members to submit letters as individuals and not as IMMT representatives. Virginia requests the committees work together to come up with some recommendations. Glendean mentioned some issues as 1. Malpractice cap that does not exist in

Illinois which makes providers not want to practice in Illinois; 2. Increase residencies in Illinois in OB/Gyn and also peds- if not having in facility, then less slots of physicians doing residency in those areas in Illinois, decrease of minority enrollment- need to improve diversity in medicine and nursing education, and decrease in funding which has an impact on who has access; 3. Care deserts in Illinois.

Google/Pixel and Fit Bit devices- Healthy Baby Pilot: artificial intelligence agent “Nurse Avery” rolled out in limited rural areas can ask any questions related to maternity conditions and management. Daniel Johnson mentioned thinking of a way to partner with “Healthy Baby” pilot in a positive way to help with access.

Arden Handler suggests the committee should focus on the “sweet spot” for this group that is unique and can contribute a different approach to access that is not so similar to the many things that are going on now. Take the lead and not get into an advocacy space. Consider focusing on “Nurse Avery” what is the knowledge of this AI that will be used by Google/Pixel.

### **Special notes**

Daniel Johnson would like the hospital data on what hospitals continue to have pediatric services, Leandra to reach out to Cara for suggestions on who to get this data from and Trishna to reach out to Evelyn Lyons for information. Consider changing November 18th meeting to one week after on November 25<sup>th</sup> which is the week of Thanksgiving; the original date of 11/18 falls on the day of the Illinois Maternal Health Summit.

### **Public Comments**

Eugenia Olson enjoyed the meeting and can see how this committee will align with her work with homeless individuals.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 1:29 pm, Jessica Lamberson made the motion, Catherine Harth seconded, and the group unanimously approved.

Next meeting July 15, 2025