



Maternal and Child Health Advisory Task Force
Friday, October 25, 2024
9:30 am – 12:00 p.m.

The duties of the Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Advisory Task Force are to review and report on the health care needs of mothers and children; review and report on MCH services provided to mothers and children; review and report to the commissioner program guidelines and criteria essential to providing an effective MCH program to low-income populations and high risk persons; make recommendations to the commissioner for the use of other federal and state funds available to meet MCH needs; make recommendations to the commissioner of health on priorities for funding MCH services (prenatal, delivery, postpartum; comprehensive health care; adolescent health; family planning; preventative dental; services for children with special health care needs; and any other services that promote the health of mothers and children); and establish in consultation with the commissioner statewide outcomes that will improve the health status of mothers and children. (MN Statute 145.8811)

AGENDA

| AGENDA ITEM | TIME | SPEAKERS |
|--|-----------------------------|--|
| Betty Hubbard Award Ceremony <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome • Overview of the award nomination process • Presentation of the award and comments from award recipients • Photos with award recipients | 9:30 – 10:30 1 hour | Sameerah Bilal-Roby, Chair Rachel Gilbertson, Nominations Committee MDH Assistant Commissioner Maria Sarabia Award Recipients Judy Edwards/Rochelle Gibbs |
| Break and room reset | 10:30 – 11:00 30 minutes | |
| Business Meeting Begins I. Welcome/Introductions and Chair Remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Introductions, meeting announcements, approval of October agenda</i> • <i>Announcements</i> • <i>Approval of August minutes</i> | 5 min. 11:00 – 11:05 | Sameerah Bilal-Roby, Chair |

| AGENDA ITEM | TIME | SPEAKERS |
|--|--------------------------|--|
| II. Member News and Issues in the Field <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Share information about issues of interest to Task Force members, including recent successes in your work, emerging issues, challenges you or your clients are experiencing, or committees on which you serve. This is your time to share.</i> | 10 min. 11:05 - 11:15 | Task Force Members |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work Group and Subcommittee Updates • Family Home Visiting • Perinatal Subcommittee • Infant and Early Childhood • Children and Youth with Special Health Needs • Child and Adolescent | 25 min. 11:15 -11:40 | MDH Subcommittee Leads |
| III. CFH Updates | 15 min. 11:40 - 11:55 | Noya Woodrich, MDH Child and Family Health Director |
| III. Proposed 2025 Meeting Frequency | 10 min. 11:55 – 12:05 | Judy Plante, Consultant |
| IV. Closing Announcements | 10 min. 12:05– 12:15 | Sameerah Bilal-Roby, Chair |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adjourn | | |



Maternal and Child Health Advisory Task Force Meeting Summary Friday, August 16, 2024

Members Present

Carolyn Allshouse
Vanessa Bembridge
Rachel Gilbertson
Nicole Fernandez
Tricia Brisbine
Sadie Swenson
Tamiko Ralston
Stephanie de Sam
Lazaro
Stephanie Graves
Andrea Lawson
Marie Malinowski
Eugene Nichols
Candi Seil
Meredith O'Brien

Members Absent

Sameera Bilal-Roby
Kara Hamilton-McGraw
Rachael Joseph
Joi Elmore
Brittany Becker
Elizabeth Pihlaja
Kadija Mussa
Lindsey Wimmer
Michelle O'Brien
Sarah Brown

MDH Staff

Nicole Brown
Savannah Riddle
Judy Edwards
Ramya Palaniappan
Chandra Bittmann
John Eshun
Elizabeth Taylor-
Schiro
Mary Ottman
Rachel Sprague
Jessica Easter
Mariah Geiger-
Williams
Judy Plante
Maria Sarabia
Audrey Hanson
Deanna White
Tara Carmean

Welcome, Introductions, and Chair Remarks

Gene Nichols, Task Force Member, welcomed members and guests, and introduced new Task Force ex-officio members, new Executive Committee members, new Chair-Elect, existing members, and consultant Judy Plante from Lanterna. A motion was made and seconded to approve the meeting agenda. A motion was made and seconded to approve the June 14 meeting minutes with a small change. Gene turned the meeting over to consultant Judy Plante to facilitate the meeting.

Member News

Nicole Fernandez mentioned a new virus that affects new moms and gave a reminder to continue to mask up in public as COVID cases are on the rise. Nicole stated she is completing her final Maternal and Gifted Health Series with the Wayside Recovery Center as the funding has ended. Rachel Gilbertson stated the Heart-to-Heart program received a model practice award from NACHO. Sadie Swenson mentioned that a co-design project with Cradle to Career was happening and the final report is completed. The strategy meeting will occur in a few weeks to develop and implement community prenatal care access.

Subcommittee Updates

Family Home Visiting Subcommittee their group sent a REDCap survey out to gain recruit additional subcommittee members. Twenty applications were submitted and they are looking to add 5-7 more members from this group of applicants. The next subcommittee meeting is on August 28th where they will review the applications, determine the subcommittee flow structure and priorities, and a MESH document review addendum.

Perinatal Subcommittee has 13 members, five are MCH Advisory Task Force members. The subcommittee is planning community feedback, through a 3-pronged approach. Meetings have moved to monthly meetings, versus bi-weekly meetings. The subcommittee's next quarterly newsletter coming out in early September.

Infant and Early Childhood subcommittee has not met yet but will meet in the coming weeks. Looking to add members to the committee.

Children and Youth with Special Health Needs subcommittee members agreed to meet monthly through December 2024. Refining purpose as group, would like to be seen as a resource to CYSHN. Hoping to add members to the subcommittee, will select official roles later.

Child and Adolescent Subcommittee met twice in June and coming up in August. Want to continue to review charge and identify areas of greatest interest. Plan on meeting monthly and will add members down the line. Will identify leader and coleader after purpose is defined more clearly.

Betty Hubbard Award

The nomination form for the 2024 Betty Hubbard Award is now open online. The deadline to submit nominations is September 11. Current Task Force members are ineligible to be nominated, but former Task Force members can be nominated for this award. The subcommittee will meet to review nominations and select the winners.

MDH Update

Nicole Brown gave the MDH update on behalf of Noya Woodrich, who was unable to attend. Some legislative proposals, such as Healthy Beginnings, Healthy Families Act, are being worked on to move forward. Elizabeth Taylor-Schiro discussed updates on the MDH Title V Needs Assessment. Once the strategies are developed, the measures will be selected for each priorities. Community feedback will follow. The annual Title V report was submitted to HRSA in July. Assistant Commissioner Maria Sarabia gave an encouragement/reminder to explore aligning forces with other agencies, communities, and resources.

Statewide Assessment Update

Audrey Hanson, Tara Carmean, and Deanna White provided the Task Force with an update on the Statewide Health Assessment, including how to use, share, and collaborate with the findings. Policy profiles include paid family and medical leave, tree canopy cover, and universal broadband internet.

Following the Statewide Assessment is the Statewide Health Improvement Framework Overview. A short time of questions and answers and announcements ensued.

Adjournment

The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, October 25 and will be an in-person meeting. Task Force member Gene Nichols thanked the presenters and members for their time and adjourned the meeting.

Child and Family Health Division Updates for the MCH Advisory Task Force

OCTOBER 2024

Director's office

Director's office

- Jan. 29, 2025, is the date set for the migration of Help Me Connect staff to DCYF.
- [Help Me Connect](#) (www.helpmeconnect.web.health.state.mn.us/HelpMeConnect) celebrated three years of serving families and caregivers in Minnesota and reports having one million new and returning users! The site launched August 2021 as a tool to help professionals working with expectant and parenting families find local programs closest to a family's home and facilitate connections. Today, Help Me Connect has grown into a trusted resource not only for providers, but for parents to explore the numerous services available to support themselves and their children. [Read more](#) (content.govdelivery.com/accounts/MNDCYF/bulletins/3af38f9)
- CFH is working with Sherri K. and Carey M. from the BUILD Initiative to create a strategic plan. So far, staff have participated in focus groups and an all-day in-person planning retreat.
- CFH health equity funding continues to support good work. Applications are accepted on a quarterly basis. Second quarter awardees are: 1) FHV to participate in a virtual workshop that introduces the Diversity informed Tenets (self-awareness leads to better services for families); 2) MCH unit to host a Community Co-Design model, a 90-minute training available to all in CFH; and 3) BIPOC Community of Practice group to host viewings of four documentaries having to do with MCH (Aftershock, Djakamirr: Caretaker of Pregnancy and Birth, and Crip Camp).
- Noya presentations:
 - Attended the City MatCH conference and participated in a conversation around doula services, along with other jurisdictions from across the country. MN is a leader in our Medicaid coverage of doula services. Noya and Elizabeth also participated as a part of a panel on to talk about our recent Title V Tour and the results of all those visits with our Local Public Health partners.
 - Participated in the Commonwealth Fund Women's Health Scorecard webinar.
 - Presenting at both the upcoming APHA conference here in Minneapolis (two different panels) and at the Title V Partnership meeting in DC (a panel and a presentation on our Title V work).

- Four CFH staff attended the Tribal Legislative Summit and presented at the breakout sessions for children and families, homelessness and housing, and economic wellbeing.
- The Preschool Development Grant (submitted by MDE) was approved and includes funding for a new staff position for some work around early childhood development.
- CFH Assistant Division Director Kathy Wick is retiring. The position will be posted until October 15.

Children and Youth with Special Health Needs

- CYSHN hosted a team from Tennessee to learn about how we do Newborn Screening. The supervisor for the Newborn Screening Unit is co-lead for the National APHL Newborn Screening Long-term Follow-up (LTFU) workgroup and our MN team is getting a national reputation for its work.
- MN has been selected to host the national 2025 CMV Public Health and Policy Conference.
- cCMV Newborn Screening program and Surveillance data was published in the MMWR last week – submitted by the PHL [Notes from the Field: Universal Newborn Screening and Surveillance for Congenital Cytomegalovirus — Minnesota, 2023–2024 | MMWR \(www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/73/wr/mm7332a2.htm?\)](https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/73/wr/mm7332a2.htm?)
- The manuscript “Using Quality Improvement to Expand and Align State Public Health Long-Term Follow-up Data Collection Across Newborn Screening Conditions” was published in the Journal of Public Health Management and Practice. The piece was written by the Newborn Screening Unit/Jennifer Hauser supervisor.
- cCMV is now listed as a reportable disease on the MDH website. This was a collaborative effort of three divisions (PHL, CFH, IDEPC).
- The Newborn Screening Advisory Committee met and voted to NOT add metachromatic leukodystrophy (MLD) to the newborn screening. MLD is a rare hereditary (genetic) disorder that causes fatty substances (lipids) to build up in cells, particularly in the brain, spinal cord, and peripheral nerves. Gene therapy would be one of the likely treatments for MLD, costing about \$4 million. The disagreement at the committee (who voted 8 in favor and 11 opposed) was this cost issue (if we screen for it and parents need to treat their children, who pays for it?). They did vote in favor of reconvening an evidence review sub-committee that would look more at MLD and bring findings to a future meeting. Here is an overview of MLD from the Mayo Clinic: [Metachromatic leukodystrophy - Symptoms and causes - Mayo Clinic \(www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/metachromatic-leukodystrophy/symptoms-causes/syc-20354733\)](https://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/metachromatic-leukodystrophy/symptoms-causes/syc-20354733)

Maternal and Child Health

- The school health workforce report is referenced in this Star Tribune article: [The pandemic is over, but Minnesota school nurses are still under pressure \(www.startribune.com/the-pandemic-is-over-but-minnesota-school-nurses-are-still-under-pressure/601113965\)](https://www.startribune.com/the-pandemic-is-over-but-minnesota-school-nurses-are-still-under-pressure/601113965)
- This article was published by MN Post and was linked to our Maternal Mortality report: [Black mothers in Minnesota at higher risk during childbirth \(www.minnpost.com/threesixty-journalism/2024/08/fighting-for-all-mothers/\)](https://www.minnpost.com/threesixty-journalism/2024/08/fighting-for-all-mothers/)
- Alison Moore, our Infant and Child Health Supervisor, will be joining the Center for Health Statistics Cannabis Advisory Board.

Women, Infant, and Children

- The new WIC Information System – WINNIE (WIC Information System Next-gen for Nutrition, Integrity, and Education) was rolled out statewide in October and will conclude in November.
- The WIC Online Shopping Project continues to go well in Hy-Vee stores in the state. Minnesota WIC, along with Iowa and Nebraska WIC Programs launched the MSWOOP (Midwest States WIC Online Ordering Pilot) project this past winter and Spring, being the first project in the country to offer Online Shopping to WIC participants. We are receiving positive feedback from clients using the WIC online shopping portal with Hy-Vee stores.
- The WIC Program is managing anticipated supply issues for some Mead Johnson infant formula products impacted by a tornado hitting a MJ warehouse in Indiana earlier this month. WIC has added larger formula can sizes to the options for WIC participants to help mitigate expected supply issues for some products destroyed in the tornado-damaged facility. The program is just starting to see evidence of and hear feedback about some supply issues in stores and will continue to monitor the situation to ensure WIC participants can access infant formula.
- Under Secretary Torres from USDA met with Kate Franken in August for a personal meet and greet at OLF to discuss upcoming USDA and Nat. WIC Assoc. priorities.
- The combined nomination with MNIT and WIC about Improving Access to Food for Minnesota's Most Vulnerable Children was selected as a finalist in the Data Management, Analytics & Visualization category of the NASCIO 2024 State IT Recognition Awards. The nomination highlighted the WIC texting program, Minnesota's EBT program, Direct Certification, and Free School Meals.
- WIC hosted a statewide training conference with nearly 500 attendees. Lieutenant Governor Peggy Flanagan sent an inspiring [recorded message \(www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ev6qqrCTJMK\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ev6qqrCTJMK) to the group.

- The National WIC Association was also in Minnesota for a conference and visited a Hennepin County WIC Clinic in South Minneapolis on October 8.

Family Home Visiting

- The MIECHV (Home Visiting) grant from HRSA has been renewed at the full amount (\$10,528,472).
- Family Home Visiting scheduling to release an application on November 1 to current grantees of the Strong Foundations program a new offering for training dollars. This would support our partners in obtaining some professional development for their home visitors.

Children and Youth with Special Health Needs (CYSHN) section

Recent awareness weeks and months

- **Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders Awareness Month** (September): official proclamation by Governor Tim Walz declaring September 9 as Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders Awareness Day in Minnesota. Learn more about prevention, education, and support on the [Proof Alliance's FASD Awareness \(www.proofalliance.org/article/fasd-awareness-day-month-2024/\)](http://www.proofalliance.org/article/fasd-awareness-day-month-2024/) webpage.
- **Folic Acid Awareness Week** (September 8-14): CYSHN and the National Birth Defects Prevention Network (NBDPN) hosted a podcast listening session with [Dr. Shannon Clark](#), a double board-certified obstetrician and gynecologist and maternal-fetal medicine specialist. Listen to the podcast on the [MotherToBaby \(www.proofalliance.org/article/fasd-awareness-day-month-2024/\)](http://www.proofalliance.org/article/fasd-awareness-day-month-2024/) website.
- **Sickle Cell Awareness Month** (September): In 2023, 20 hemoglobinopathy (sickle cell) referrals were made to local public health through longitudinal follow-up. Visit the [Sickle Cell Awareness Month \(www.sicklecelldisease.org/get-involved/events/national-sickle-cell-awareness-month/\)](http://www.sicklecelldisease.org/get-involved/events/national-sickle-cell-awareness-month/) webpage for information on national awareness efforts and the [Sickle Cell Foundation of Minnesota \(www.sicklecellmn.org/\)](http://www.sicklecellmn.org/) website to learn more about sickle cell disease.
- **Newborn Screening Awareness Month** (September): Newborn Screening Awareness Month in September is celebrated every year to create awareness regarding the benefits of newborn screening. Learn more on the [Baby's First Test Newborn Screening Awareness \(www.babysfirsttest.org/newborn-screening/2024-newborn-screening-awareness-month\)](http://www.babysfirsttest.org/newborn-screening/2024-newborn-screening-awareness-month) webpage.

Mental Health Collaboration Hub featured on KSTP TV

The [Mental Health Collaboration Hub \(mnpsychconsulthub.com/\)](https://mnpsychconsulthub.com/) (“the hub”) is a statewide virtual networking center aimed at helping children and youth who are boarding in hospitals and emergency departments get connected to safe living and mental health treatment settings. It is a collaborative center where health care and mental health staff, professionals, and providers can coordinate and network with each other while working to reduce the number of children and youth in boarding situations. Funding for the hub’s development is provided by the CFH CYSHN section through the federal Pediatric Mental Health Care Access Program of the Health Resources and Services Administration. Watch this short [KSTP TV segment \(kstp.com/kstp-news/top-news/mental-health-collaboration-hub-helping-connect-youth-to-available-beds/\)](https://kstp.com/kstp-news/top-news/mental-health-collaboration-hub-helping-connect-youth-to-available-beds/) about work being done by our team and local partners.

Staffing updates

Maya Koffski started in the student worker position within the longitudinal follow-up unit on August 26. She is a second year MPH student pursuing a degree within the community health promotion program at the University of Minnesota and graduated with a Bachelor’s Degree in Health and Wellbeing Sciences also from University of Minnesota in 2022.

Jasmin Wright has accepted the new epidemiologist senior position focusing on surveillance and follow up for infants with Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome. This new position was made possible by the Comprehensive Drug Overdose and Morbidity Prevention Act (Minnesota Statutes 144.0528) legislation that passed in 2023.

Maternal and Child Health (MCH) section

Women’s Health

Maternal Mortality

This fall, the Maternal Mortality staff will work with our committee to review cases of maternal death that occurred in 2022. We are working closely with the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) to ensure we review cases as completely as possible in a timely way. Over the summer, staff were able to complete site visits at multiple organizations that we funded through a CDC grant. It was a great opportunity to connect and hear about the meaningful work each of these groups is engaged in.

Upcoming events related to Women’s Health:

- The Wilder Foundation hosted the [AABC Black & Brown Birthing Summit \(aabcprojects.org/index.html\)](https://aabcprojects.org/index.html) September 19-20.
- October 10 is [World Mental Health Day \(www.who.int/campaigns/world-mental-health-day\)](https://www.who.int/campaigns/world-mental-health-day)
- The Minnesota Perinatal Quality Collaborative will cohost the [Perinatal Improvement Summit \(mnpqc.org/2024-perinatal-improvement-summit/\)](https://mnpqc.org/2024-perinatal-improvement-summit/) October 22-23.

MDH receives CDC funding to address maternal mortality in Minnesota

MDH has been awarded [five years of funding](#) from the CDC's [Eliminate Maternal Mortality \(ERASE MM\) \(www.cdc.gov/maternal-mortality/php/erase-mm/index.html\)](#) to address maternal mortality in Minnesota. The ERASE MM program directly supports agencies and organizations that coordinate and manage Maternal Mortality Review Committees to identify, review, and characterize pregnancy-related deaths, and identify prevention opportunities. This work provides a deeper insight into the drivers of maternal mortality and pregnancy complications, as well as associated disparities, suggests what interventions at patient, provider, facility, system, and community levels are likely to be most effective, and guides implementation of these interventions in communities where the need is greatest. In Minnesota, this funding will support continuous maternal mortality review work, creating internal and external support of the maternal mortality review committee and its members, and expansion on recommendations from the committee into action.

Adolescent Health

2024 Minnesota STI testing week

Child and Adolescent Health staff Jacki Trelawny and Ellen Saliaries participated on the planning committee for Minnesota's Statewide Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI) testing week, an annual event to bring awareness to the need for STI testing, decrease the stigma of seeking sexual health services, and connect young people to clinics. Young people are disproportionately impacted by STIs and experience unique barriers to accessing care. The event was held May 13-17. Thirty-eight clinics participated and tested 326 people ages 13-25 for chlamydia, gonorrhea, and other STIs. Of those patients, over a third were new to the clinic where they received testing. Support for the event was also provided by the PREP/SRAE programs in the Child and Adolescent Health unit through paid social media promotion for the event, which reached almost 60,000 people.

Upcoming sexual and reproductive health services grantee gathering

Sexual and reproductive health services (SRHS) grantees met for an in-person meeting on October 7 for a community-building and training event hosted by Jacki Trelawny and Ellen Saliaries. Speakers included:

- [Dr. Gunda Georg \(www.pharmacy.umn.edu/our-faculty-staff/our-faculty\)](#) (University of Minnesota, Department of Medicinal Chemistry) talked about her work on the research and development of a non-hormonal male contraceptive method.
- Khalid Bo-Subait (MDH, Infectious Disease Epidemiology, Prevention and Control) provided an update on sexually transmitted infections.
- Devon Charlier ([WeARE \(www.wearebrainerd.org/the-clinic\)](#), SRHS grantee) presented on their STI drop box pilot project.

- Rebecca Driker-Ohren ([Family Tree Clinic \(www.familytreeclinic.org/\)](http://www.familytreeclinic.org/), SRHS grantee) presented on the [Family Planning and STD Hotline' \(www.sexualhealthmn.org/\)](http://www.sexualhealthmn.org/)s work to reach people in Greater Minnesota.

CFH Mental Health Strategic Planning

A cross-section workgroup is developing a plan for CFH work on mental health that includes current efforts and priority areas to expand our scope. The group is considering on training, policy, and programs within each priority area. This plan will support communications with agency leadership and decisions about grant and legislative opportunities. A final plan is expected by the end of the year.

Nature work

The CFH Adolescent Health Unit is making strides to support increased access to nature to promote mental health and wellbeing. This work will align with the Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights efforts and is in partnership with State Health Improvement Partnership (SHIP), DNR, and the Governor's Children's Cabinet. CFH made initial investment in a cohort of BIPOC Forest Therapy Guides last year. **Eaden Mezemure, a new Public Health Corp member**, will be supporting this effort through June 2025.

Reimagine Black Youth Mental Health Initiative

After extensive engagement with over 500 Black youth, led by our community partner, the [Brooklyn Bridge Alliance for Youth \(www.brooklynsallianceforyouth.org/black-youth-mental-health\)](http://www.brooklynsallianceforyouth.org/black-youth-mental-health), **safety** was identified as a key priority. Black youth defined safety as *safety on social media from bullying, safety in community from gun violence, and safety in schools from racism*. Safety online from bullying emerged as a priority topic. The emerging policy demonstration includes an eight-session curriculum in three schools where students will explore digital wellbeing, evaluate school cell phone policies with administration, and implement a school project. Results can inform school practices and response to state legislation. A state and local leader event is being planned for January 16, 2025, which will include national experts and state leaders engaged in this issue.

Sexual and Reproductive Health Services 2023 Factsheet and Statistical Report

The [program factsheet \(www.health.state.mn.us/people/womeninfants/srhs/fpspfact2024.pdf\)](http://www.health.state.mn.us/people/womeninfants/srhs/fpspfact2024.pdf) and [statistical report \(www.health.state.mn.us/people/womeninfants/srhs/fpspstat2024.pdf\)](http://www.health.state.mn.us/people/womeninfants/srhs/fpspstat2024.pdf) for the sexual and reproductive health services grant program is now available on the MDH [sexual and reproductive health services \(www.health.state.mn.us/people/womeninfants/srhs/index.html\)](http://www.health.state.mn.us/people/womeninfants/srhs/index.html) webpage. Some exciting data includes that 91,165 individuals were reached through outreach and education about sexual and reproductive health. There were 15,741 Minnesotans who accessed contraceptive care and 15,065 who received emergency contraception.

Adolescent Sexual Health Evidence Based Interventions

The MN Personal Responsibility Education Program (PREP) program recently held trainings for the IN-Clued and Project MARS curricula. IN-Clued consists of two three-hour workshops, one workshop that provides sexual health education to LGBTQ+ youth and a second workshop that partners with LGBTQ+ youth to educate clinic staff on inclusive health center practices. Project MARS is a two-hour intervention that uses motivational interviewing techniques to facilitate conversations with young people about sexual risk reduction, especially in relationship to alcohol and marijuana. Both curricula are currently being used by PREP grantees.

Supplemental Youth Engagement Funding for SRAE Grantees

The MN Sexual Risk Avoidance Education (SRAE) grant program recently received supplemental funding for youth engagement in SRAE programming. This funding will support a youth engagement and peer education program developed by the Division of Indian Work (DIW) entitled, Live It! Warriors Committee. Live It! is a culturally specific teen pregnancy prevention and sexuality education curriculum designed for American Indians by American Indians. In Live It! Warriors Committee, previous graduates of the Live It! program at DIW will engage in five workshops to provide student feedback on the curriculum. By incorporating youth perspectives and promoting a platform for young Native voices, the Warriors Committee will improve the Live It! curriculum to better meet the needs of Native youth in the community.

School health webpages relaunched

The [school health services webpages](http://www.health.state.mn.us/people/childreneyouth/schoolhealth/index.html) (www.health.state.mn.us/people/childreneyouth/schoolhealth/index.html) have recently undergone a major renovation. The webpages provide comprehensive information, resources, best practices, and guidance for school health services and school nursing.

Child and Teen Checkups (C&TC)

- The C&TC team provided information and resources with a table at the statewide WIC Training Conference in September.
- Submitted and received CFH health equity funding to offer Community Co-Design training for CFH. Through this 90-minute training, participants will receive education on strategy and skill to implement a human-centered design approach to create opportunities and structures for shared decision-making through prioritizing the most effective involvement of historically excluded populations.
- A video project focused to the voice(s) of those who have experienced homelessness is under development to use in trainings for providers and others who support C&TC visits.
- Work has begun with University of Minnesota and Fond Du Lac Tribal partners to create training content for C&TC Best Practices for supporting and building relations with Native communities.
- [Child and Teen Checkups Newsletter](http://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/MNMDH/bulletins/3b9db7d) (content.govdelivery.com/accounts/MNMDH/bulletins/3b9db7d) went out on October 8, 2024 to local public health and clinic staff throughout the state.

Infant Health

New searchable list of Doulas in Minnesota

Help Me Connect has added a searchable listing for doulas and birth workers. The growing list of doulas and birth workers will increase access for more families seeking services fitting their birthing goals. This resource is free and includes filters for many features and services that are important to clients and doulas alike, reducing the barrier to access. Please share with your networks!

- Complete this form to sign up: [Doula's Information for Help Me Connect \(redcap.health.state.mn.us/redcap/surveys/?s=EXKH9AJHAMY8P4EF\)](https://redcap.health.state.mn.us/redcap/surveys/?s=EXKH9AJHAMY8P4EF)
- Search the existing list on Help Me Connect: [Doulas and Birth Workers - Help Me Connect \(helpmeconnect.web.health.state.mn.us/HelpMeConnect/Search/PregnantandExpectantFamilies/EducationandSupport/DoulasandBirthWorkers?loc=&geo=\)](https://helpmeconnect.web.health.state.mn.us/HelpMeConnect/Search/PregnantandExpectantFamilies/EducationandSupport/DoulasandBirthWorkers?loc=&geo=)

New brief released about Minnesota youth impacted by incarceration

A new brief was released summarizing 10 years of data compiled from the Minnesota Student Survey, assessing experiences of youth impacted by parental incarceration from across Minnesota. Key findings include nearly one in four youth (22%) living in rural Minnesota and one in six youth statewide report experiencing the incarceration of a parent. The Minnesota model jails practices learning community promotes policy and practices changes in county jails that support incarcerated parents and their children. Learn more about the Minnesota model jails practices learning community by reading the latest [newsletter \(content.govdelivery.com/accounts/MNMDH/bulletins/3a60543\)](https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/MNMDH/bulletins/3a60543).

Awareness months

- **Infant Mortality Week** (September 15-21): an opportunity for individuals, organizations, government entities, health care systems, community partners, and coalitions to promote awareness and education about infant mortality. [View and download \(www.health.state.mn.us/people/womeninfants/infantmort/imawareness.html\)](https://www.health.state.mn.us/people/womeninfants/infantmort/imawareness.html) the proclamation from Governor Tim Walz.
- **Suicide Prevention** (September): provides a dedicated time for people, organizations, and communities to join their voices and share that there is hope, help is available, and healing is possible. Visit the [Suicide Prevention Awareness Month \(www.health.state.mn.us/communities/suicide/basics/awarenessmonth.html\)](https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/suicide/basics/awarenessmonth.html) page to download a toolkit.
- **Let's Talk Month** (October): national and statewide initiative to provides parents, caregivers, and children the chance to learn how to communicate honestly and openly about relationships, sexuality, and other sensitive topics. For more information, visit the CDC's

[Talking with Your Teens about Sex web page
\(www.cdc.gov/healthyyouth/protective/factsheets/talking_teens.htm\)](https://www.cdc.gov/healthyyouth/protective/factsheets/talking_teens.htm).

- **Safe Sleep Week** (November 17-23): plans are underway to teach Minnesota parents, caregivers, and health care providers about what safe sleep looks like and why it prevents unexpected infant deaths.

New staff

Meredith Shimek has joined CFH as a MCH needs assessment data and community engagement intern. She is an MPH student studying maternal and child health at the University of Minnesota School of Public Health. She earned her bachelor's degree in psychology and international relations from Beloit College.

Gabby Major has joined the Infant and Child Health Unit as an AmeriCorps Public Health Project Coordinator for an 11-month assignment. She graduated with a BA in Physiology from the University of Minnesota and recently received her Master of Public Health from the University of Southern California. Her past work experience includes eight years at Fairview Health Services in Radiology, Acute Care Lab, and Pathology. She also worked as an intern at King's College Hospital in London in the Maternity Ward and taught English in South Korea.

Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) section

WIC celebrates 50 years

Minnesota WIC is celebrating 50 years as a program.

- MN WIC created a [Minnesota WIC 50th Anniversary \(YouTube\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gC6FOEECFGo) (www.youtube.com/watch?v=gC6FOEECFGo) video to commemorate the past five decades and share how far the program has come in 50 years.
- Minnesota Governor Tim Walz declared September as Minnesota WIC Month. The proclamation is posted to the WIC website: [2024 Minnesota WIC Month Proclamation](https://www.health.state.mn.us/people/wic/proclamation.html) (www.health.state.mn.us/people/wic/proclamation.html)
- Approximately 100 current and former WIC staff and partners gathered in September to celebrate the 50th anniversary of WIC.
 - Read the news release: [Health leaders celebrate 50 years of improved health and nutrition for Minnesota families - MN Dept. of Health \(state.mn.us\)](https://www.health.state.mn.us/news/pressrel/2024/wic090524.html) (www.health.state.mn.us/news/pressrel/2024/wic090524.html)

WIC coverage rates – Minnesota WIC ranks third highest

USDA recently published their report on WIC coverage rates: [National and State Level Estimates of WIC Eligibility and Program Reach in 2022 \(www.fns.usda.gov/research/wic/eeer-2022#:~:text=In%20the%20average%20month%20of,percent\)%20WIC%20Deligible%20individua ls\)](https://www.fns.usda.gov/research/wic/eeer-2022#:~:text=In%20the%20average%20month%20of,percent)%20WIC%20Deligible%20individua ls). Amazing work reaching and enrolling families in WIC across Minnesota!

Minnesota WIC

- 2021 coverage rate was 61.5%.
- 2022 coverage rate for was 65.7% which puts Minnesota at third highest coverage rate for geographic states behind only Vermont and California.
- Nearly two thirds (65.7%) of those eligible for Minnesota WIC participated in the program during 2022. This participation rate is significantly higher than the National rate of 53.5%.
- In 2022, Minnesota WIC served nearly 95% of eligible infants, 58% of eligible children and over 70% of eligible pregnant/postpartum people.
- In Minnesota, the number of people eligible to participate continues to slowly decline.
- In 2022, Hispanic/Latino Minnesota WIC eligible have a greater participation rate (71%) than the Minnesota State rate.
- The [national- and state-level estimates of WIC eligibility and program reach in 2022 \(www.fns.usda.gov/research/wic/eeer-2022#:~:text=In%20the%20average%20month%20of,percent\)%20WIC%20Deligible%20indivi duals\)](https://www.fns.usda.gov/research/wic/eeer-2022#:~:text=In%20the%20average%20month%20of,percent)%20WIC%20Deligible%20indivi duals) are available by state but not by county. Query WIC 2022 Coverage to be directed to the USDA interactive dashboard.

MN WIC and local agencies recognized for breastfeeding promotion and support

Minnesota WIC earned national recognition, receiving the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Food and Nutrition Service (USDA-FNS) WIC Breastfeeding Performance Bonus Award after increasing the rate of fully breastfed infants from 25% in April 2022 to 28% in April 2023.

The Minnesota WIC program is one of 15 programs to receive the national award. With the award, WIC will receive a an additional \$168,957 to enhance breastfeeding services for participants over the next year. The USDA also recognized four local WIC agencies that received the UDSA-FNS WIC Breastfeeding Awards of Excellence for their achievements promoting and supporting breastfeeding.

Gold awardees

- Anoka County WIC Program
- Lake County WIC Program

Premiere awardees

- Carlton County WIC Program
- Itasca County Public Health WIC

Minnesota WIC also partnered with Twin Cities Public Television (TPT) to host the Nursing Nest at the Minnesota State Fair: [Award-winning Minnesota WIC program offers Nursing Nest for babies at the State Fair - MN Dept. of Health](https://www.health.state.mn.us/news/pressrel/2024/wic081924.html) (www.health.state.mn.us/news/pressrel/2024/wic081924.html)

Local agency spotlights for Breastfeeding and Chestfeeding Awareness Month

Aitkin County: Lactation spaces and peer promotion

Aitkin WIC partnered with Roth RV to provide a new camper for the mother infant rest area at the Aitkin County Fair. This space has been well-utilized and appreciated by families with young children. Through a partnership with SHIP, Aitkin County also has a lactation tent to use for breastfeeding families at community events. The tent houses two rocking camp chairs and a changing table for families to feed or pump. Aitkin WIC used an Equity in Lactation grant to purchase lactation support items to promote peer breastfeeding services. The outreach and support items are distributed to participants to celebrate breastfeeding milestones and support duration of lactation. For World Breastfeeding Week, Aitkin mails out letters to local businesses with Breastfeeding Welcome Here stickers and offering information on how to become a breastfeeding-friendly business.

Family Home Visiting (FHV) section

Maternal and Child Health Task Force – Family Home Visiting subcommittee members selected

Six additional members were selected to be a part of the family home visiting subcommittee of the MCH advisory task force. The purpose of the family home visiting subcommittee will be to use a professional home visiting and community-based lens to advise the MDH family home visiting program.

Family home visiting subcommittee members

- Brittany Becker
- Elizabeth Pihlaja
- Sadie Swenson
- Rachel Gilbertson

Family home visiting subcommittee ad hoc members

- Kelly Ball, central region
- Amy Morris, northwest region
- Anna Mueller, metro region
- Kaying Vang-Lor, metro region
- Cristi Crego, northeast region
- Austere Apolo, southeast region

Family home visiting program in St. Louis County wins national award for Heart-to-Heart

St. Louis County Public Health's Heart-to-Heart program in Duluth recently won a Model Practices Award from the National Association of County and City Health Officials. This award recognizes outstanding local public health approaches and shares promising practices with a broader audience. Heart-to-Heart is funded by MDH's Promising Practices grant. It aims to improve birth outcomes related to hypertensive disorders in pregnancy including preeclampsia. Now in its second year of the grant, the program will add a community health worker into its staffing model to support health system navigation and referrals to community resources. To read more, visit [public health home visit program wins national honor \(content.govdelivery.com/accounts/MNSTLOUIS/bulletins/3ad26fb\)](https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/MNSTLOUIS/bulletins/3ad26fb).

Strong Foundations professional development application underway

MDH's Family Home Visiting is working to finalize an application for Strong Foundations grantees implementing evidence-based family home visiting models who are interested in receiving additional funding to offer professional development opportunities. Applications will be accepted from November 1, 2024, through October 31, 2025, for projects and activities occurring January 1, 2025, to December 31, 2025.

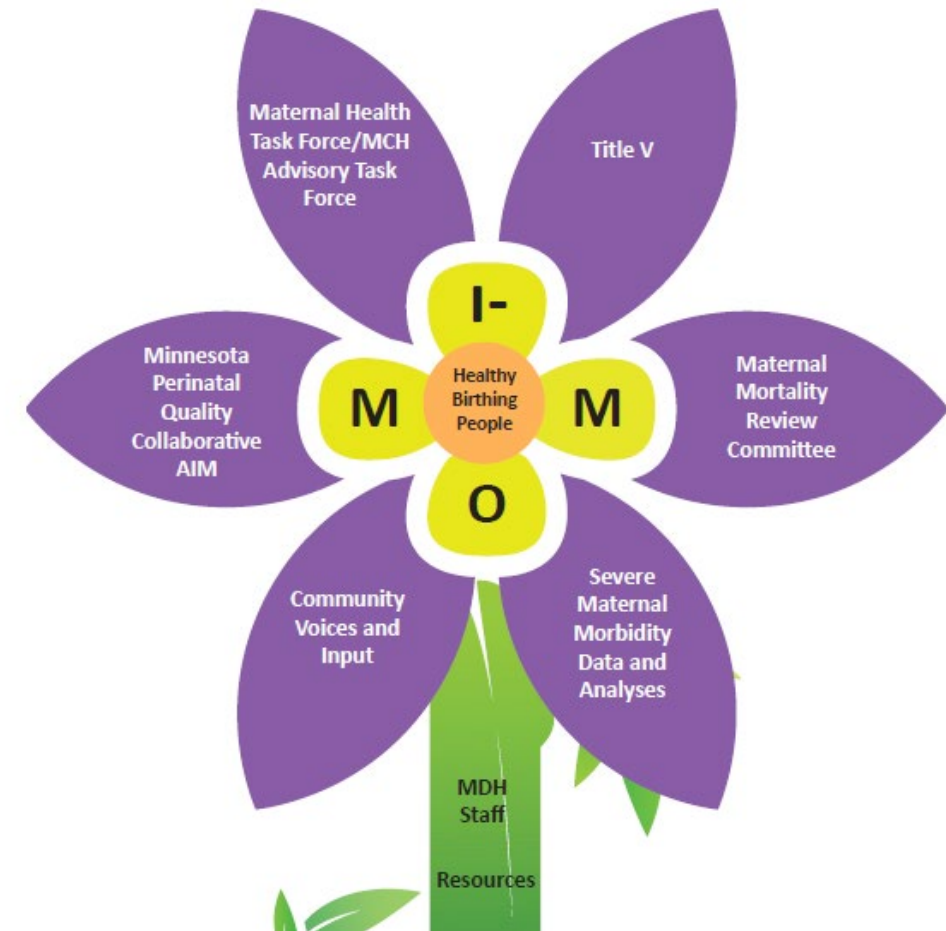


Perinatal Sub-Committee

Najoicia Elmore and Michelle O'Brien, Co-Chairs

PSC Membership

- Diane Banigo (Igniting Faces of Beauty)
- Yvonne Butler Tobah (OB at Mayo)
- **Najoicia Elmore (Social Worker)**
- **Rachel Gilbertson (Quad County CHB)**
- **Stephanie Graves (City of Minneapolis)**
- Jen Greenleaf (NWICDC)
- Ashley Johnson (Hennepin County Public Health)
- Lovena Kabba (DHS)
- **Michelle O'Brien (UCare)**
- Ella Rusnacko (MNPQC)
- Audrey Tate (MHA)
- **Elizabeth Taylor-Schiro (Title V)**
- Camila Valenzuela-Panza (DIW)



Perinatal Sub-committee Draft Strategic Plan

Oct. - Dec. 2024:

- Community feedback phase begins
- Survey is sent out
- PSC-led guided conversations

Jan. 2025:

- Listening sessions
- Analyze data
- Post summary of survey feedback

Feb. - Mar. 2025:

- Summarize feedback from listening sessions
- Revise plan based on feedback
- Present to MCHATF
- Publish final recommendations



- Quarterly newsletter – next edition coming out early 2025.
- Subscribe here:
<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/MNMDH/bulletins/37ed26a>

I-MOM Quarterly Newsletter - December 2023

Minnesota Department of Health sent this bulletin at 12/13/2023 09:25 AM CST



Innovations for Maternal Health Outcomes in Minnesota (I-MOM)



[View this as a webpage](#)

- Program description
- Perinatal sub-committee member spotlight
- Program updates
- Resources
- Upcoming events

**MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH ADVISORY TASK FORCE
Membership List (updated 10/21/2024)**

| Consumer Representatives | Community Health Board Representatives | Professional Representatives |
|---|--|---|
| <p>Najoica (Joi) Elmore Wayside Recovery Center 1600 University Ave. W, Suite 500 St. Paul, MN 55104 Tel: 651-747-5525 nelmore001@gmail.com <i>Term start date: 1/1/23</i> <i>Term ends 1/1/27</i></p> <p>MCH Area(s) of Expertise: Mental health, women’s health, family advocacy, trauma informed care, health equity, community engagement, health promotion and prevention, Child & Teen Checkups</p> | <p>Brittany Becker, RN, BSN, PHN, CLS McLeod County Health & Human Services 520 Chandler Ave. N. Glencoe, MN 55336 Tel: 507-276-3165 brittany.becker@mcleodcountymn.gov <i>Term start date: 4/15/24</i> <i>Term ends 1/3/28</i></p> <p>MCH Area(s) of Expertise: Early Childhood, Family Home Visiting, Health Promotions & Prevention, WIC, Prenatal Care</p> | <p>Sameerah Bilal-Roby (Chair, Executive Committee) Amherst H. Wilder Foundation 451 Lexington Pkwy. N St. Paul, MN 55104 Tel: 612-309-6874 sameerah.bilal-roby@wilder.org <i>Term start date: 1/1/23</i> <i>Term ends 1/1/27</i></p> <p>MCH Area(s) of Expertise: Wellbeing wellness promotion, family advocacy, trauma informed care, early childhood, infant mortality, community engagement</p> |
| <p>Andrea Lawson MSA, MPH (c) 9682 Winslow Chase Maple Grove, MN 55311 Andrea.lawson725@gmail.com Tel: 651-491-4272 <i>Term start date: 4/15/24</i> <i>Term ends 1/3/28</i></p> <p>MCH Area(s) of Expertise: Children & Youth with Special Health Needs, Health Care Administration, Health Equity, Health Promotions & Prevention, Public Health, Well-being Wellness Promotion</p> | <p>Rachel Gilbertson 404 West Superior Street, Suite 250 Duluth, MN 55802 Tel: 218-213-0161 gilbertsonr@communityhealthboard.org <i>Term start date: 4/5/23</i> <i>Term ends 1/3/28</i></p> <p>MCH Area(s) of Expertise: Rural/Local Public Health, health equity, Family Home Visiting, Health Promotions & Prevention, Mindfulness & Reflective Practice</p> | <p>Stephanie de Sam Lazaro St. Catherine University 2004 Randolph Ave. #4240 St. Paul, MN 55105 Tel: 651-690-6622 slidesamlazaro@stkate.edu <i>Term start date: 1/1/23</i> <i>Term ends 1/3/28</i></p> <p>MCH Area(s) of Expertise: Wellbeing wellness promotion, disabilities, family advocacy, trauma informed care, health equity, community-based health care, early childhood, community engagement, health promotion & prevention, pediatric oral health, C&TC</p> |
| <p>Eugene Nichols 5019 David Ct. Shoreview, MN 55126 Tel: 651-343-2048 eugene.nichols@comcast.net <i>Term start date: 1/1/23</i> <i>Term ends 1/3/28</i></p> | <p>Stephanie Graves Minneapolis Health Department 250 South 4th St. Minneapolis, MN 55415 Tel: 612-673-3735 stephanie.graves@minneapolismn.gov <i>Term start date: 1/2/24</i> <i>Term ends: 1/3/28</i></p> | <p>Nicole Fernandez Wayside Recovery Center 1600 University Ave. W, Suite 500 St. Paul, MN 55104 Tel: 763-843-0524 nicole.fernandez@waysiderc.org <i>Term start date: 4/5/2023</i> <i>Term ends 1/1/27</i></p> |

| Consumer Representatives | Community Health Board Representatives | Professional Representatives |
|--|--|--|
| <p>MCH Areas(s) of Expertise: Past member Ramsey County HFA advisory committee advocacy for mothers with children between ages 0-5; RCCHAC; board member Face to Face; Ramsey County Charter Commission</p> | <p>MCH Area(s) of Expertise: Early childhood and school readiness, targeted home visiting, infant mortality prevention, safety net services, and community engagement</p> | <p>MCH Area(s) of Expertise: Medical care of women and children including prenatal care, breastfeeding support/promotion, substance use disorders including opiate use disorder in pregnant and parenting women, trauma informed care, resilience/mindfulness/mental wellbeing</p> |
| <p>Elizabeth Pihlaja 821 S. Sheridan St. Fergus Falls, MN 56537 Tel: 701-426-3100 epihlaja@gmail.com <i>Term start date (R): 4/5/23</i> <i>Term ends 1/1/27</i></p> <p>MCH Area(s) of Expertise: Health care programs, health care systems, mental health, well-being wellness promotion, women’s health, family advocacy, prenatal care, health equity, early childhood, infant mortality, reproductive health, community engagement, family home visiting, health promotion and prevention</p> | <p>Meredith O’Brien Hennepin County Public Health 525 Portland Ave. Minneapolis, MN 55415 Tel: 612-384-7006 meredith.obrien@hennepin.us <i>Term start date: 1/1/23</i> <i>Term ends 1/1/27</i></p> <p>MCH Area(s) of Expertise: Mental health, women’s health, public health, early childhood, family home visiting, Child & Teen Checkups, WIC</p> | <p>Rachael Joseph 3729 13th Ave. S Minneapolis, MN 55407 Tel: 612-710-1160 rjoseph@thefamilypartnership.org <i>Term start date: 4/5/23</i> <i>Term end date: 1/1/27</i></p> <p>MCH Area(s) of Expertise: Gun violence prevention, trauma and ACEs</p> |
| <p>Candi Seil 1957 Raspberry Lane Shakopee, MN 55379 Tel: 651-291-5303 candiwalz@gmail.com <i>Term start date: 4/15/24</i> <i>Term ends 1/3/28</i></p> <p>MCH Area(s) of Expertise: Community Engagement, Children & Youth with Special Health Needs, Disabilities, Early Childhood, Family Advocacy, Family Home Visiting, Health Equity, Prenatal Care, Well-being Wellness Promotion</p> | <p>Sadie Swenson Olmsted County Public Health 2100 Campus Dr. SE, Suite 100 Rochester, MN 55904 Tel: 507-273-3239 sadie.swenson@olmstedcounty.gov <i>Term start date: 4/5/23</i> <i>Term end date: 1/1/27</i></p> <p>MCH Area(s) of Expertise: Family home visiting, documentation</p> | <p>Vacant <i>Term start date:</i> <i>Term ends 1/3/28</i></p> |

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS

| | | |
|--|---|--|
| <p>Carolyn Allshouse Family Voices of Minnesota 2223 5th Street, Unit 10933 St. Paul, MN 55110 Tel: 612-210-5547 Carolyn@familyvoicesmn.org MCH Area(s) of Expertise: CYSHN, health care programs, health care systems, public health, disabilities, family advocacy, Medicaid managed care, community engagement.</p> | <p>Vanessa Bembridge 4825 103rd Ave. N Brooklyn Park, MN 55443 Tel: 612-596-0719 vanessa.bembridge@hennepin.us MCH Areas(s) of Expertise: Health equity, quality improvement, population health, maternal and child health, health plan and government relations, and Medicaid policy.</p> | <p>Tricia Brisbine 7201 103rd Ave. N Brooklyn Park, MN 55445 Tel: 612-968-2254 tkbrisbine@gmail.com MCH Area(s) of Expertise: Children and Youth with Special Health Needs. Master’s degree and a background in clinical psychology with emphasis in early childhood mental health. Disabilities, Healthcare Programs, Healthcare systems, mental health, and family advocacy</p> |
| <p>Tamiko Ralston Saint-Paul Ramsey County Public Health 1670 Beam Ave., Ste. 101 Maplewood, MN 55109 Tel: 651-283-8925 tamiko.ralston@co.ramsey.mn.us MCH Areas(s) of Expertise: Public Health nurse case management, Screening, early intervention & referral *Community Outreach & Engagement, Birth Equity, Mental Health & Wellness promotion</p> | <p>Vacant March of Dimes</p> | <p>Marie Malinowski Blue Cross Blue Shield of Minnesota 812 Ivy Ln. Eagan, MN 55123 Tel: 651-662-1952 marie.malinowski@bluecrossmn.com MCH Area(s) of Expertise: Population Health, Maternal Health, Obesity (prevention), Diabetes, Social Determinants of Health (LEP, access to care), health care programs, well-being/wellness, women’s health, Health Equity, reproductive health, Medicaid managed care, community engagement, health promotion/prevention, pediatric oral health</p> |
| <p>Michelle O’Brien, MD, MPH 258 S. Macalester St., Unit B St. Paul, MN 55105 Tel: 651-342-3034 zenirishlass@gmail.com MCH Area(s) of Expertise: Medical care of women and children including prenatal care, breastfeeding support/promotion, substance use disorders including opiate use disorder in pregnant and parenting women, trauma informed care, resilience/mindfulness/mental wellbeing.</p> | <p>Vacant PACER Center</p> | <p>Lindsey Wimmer 11466 Landing Rd. Eden Prairie, MN 55347 Tel: 952-941-0114 lindsey@starlegacyfoundation.org MCH Area(s) of Expertise: Health care systems, mental health, well-being wellness promotion, women’s health, public health, family advocacy, prenatal care, community-based health care, early childhood, infant mortality, community engagement, health promotion and prevention.</p> |

MDH Staff

Brooke Cunningham, Commissioner
Maria Sarabia, Asst. Commissioner
Noya Woodrich, Child & Family Health Division Director
Savannah Riddle
Nicole Brown
Judy Edwards
Jennie Lippert
Elizabeth Taylor-Schiro
Amy Stauter
Sarah Dunne
Heather Stillwell
Mary Ottman
Alison Moore
Ramya Palaniappan
Anne Walaszek
Mariah Geiger-Williams
Julie Neitzel Carr
Kristin Teipel

Work Groups/Committees

Betty Hubbard MCH Leadership Award Committee
Membership Committee
Family Home Visiting Subcommittee
Perinatal Subcommittee
Infant and Early Childhood Subcommittee
Children and Youth with Special Health Needs Subcommittee
Child and Adolescent Subcommittee