



Maternal and Child Health Advisory Task Force Meeting Summary Friday, June 14, 2024

Members Present

Carolyn Allshouse
Vanessa Bembridge
Sameerah Bilal-Roby
Mariah Geiger-Williams
Rachel Gilbertson
Patty Graham
Stephanie Graves
Andrea Lawson
Marie Malinowski
Eugene Nichols
Meredith O'Brien
Michelle O'Brien
Elizabeth Pihlaja
Candi Seil
Lindsay Wimmer

Members Absent

Kara Hamilton-McGraw
Rachael Joseph

MDH Staff

Nicole Brown
Savannah Riddle
Jennie Lippert
Alison Moore
Judy Edwards
Ramya Palaniappan
John Eshun
Elizabeth Taylor-Schiro
Autumn Baum
Mary Ottman
Judy Plante
Molly Meyer
Katie McLaughlin
Maria Sarabia

Welcome, Introductions, and Chair Remarks

Sameerah Bilal-Roby, Chair of the Task Force, welcomed members and guests, and introductions of new Task Force members, new Executive Committee members, new Chair-Elect, and consultant Judy Plante from Lanterna Consulting were made. The February 9 meeting minutes were previously accepted via email vote. Sameerah turned the meeting over to consultant Judy Plante to run the meeting.

Legislative Update Summary

Autumn Baum, Assistant Legislative Director for MDH, shared overview of legislation passed in 2023 impacting Maternal and Child Health. Chapter 80 – additional policy and agency funding included in Chapter 127. Chapter 106 – MDH to develop health-risk limits for contaminants found or anticipated to be found in Minnesota drinking water. Chapter 109 – modifies definition of the health services specialist employed by MDE, student access to space for mental health care through telehealth. Chapter 115 – health education standards, child maltreatment reporting study, child mortality review panel modifications, federal compliance, labor trafficking and child missing from foster care, conforming changes to 2023 legislation governing access to original birth records, immunization exemptions for child care, summer EBT, additional funding for food security. Chapter 117 – establishes the Minnesota African American Family Preservation and Child Welfare Disproportionality Act to support greater

protections for African American and children who are overrepresented in Minnesota's child welfare system. Chapter 121 – Operation of medical cannabis program transfer from MDH to Office of Cannabis Management, modifications to cannabis prevention and education program funding, transfer of substance use treatment, recovery, and prevention grants to MDH. Chapter 127 – contains almost all of the MDH policy and budget provisions for 2024, including ensuring timely birth registration for “safe place” infants, updates to Minnesota Fathers’ Adoption Registry (MFAR), pharmacist administration of certain vaccinations to individuals over age 3, stillbirth prevention through tracking fetal movement pilot program, grant to chosen vessels midwifery services, American Indian birth center program grant, grant to Birth Justice Collaborative for African American-focused homeplace model.

CFH Update

Nicole Brown and Savannah Riddle provided updates on CYCHN and MCH sections. Nicole reviewed other legislation that directly affects the CFH sections – cannabis prevention for breastfeeding individuals, adequate epinephrine in schools, midwife prescriptions, all health plans that offer mental health services to cover medically necessary gender affirming care, amino-acid based formula for babies in need. WIC program is piloting an online shopping program in Hy-Vee stores. Title V site visits are being performed with all the local community health boards. Savannah shared about the school health report that stated 50% of Minnesota schools do not have a licensed school nurse. MCH hired a Communications Specialist and will be soon hiring a Planner.

MCH Advisory Task Force Subcommittee Updates

Nicole Brown shared about the MCH Advisory Task Force subcommittee updates. Five new subcommittees have been formed; Perinatal, Children & Youth with Special Health Needs, Child & Adolescent Health, Family Home Visiting, and Infant & Early Childhood. Children & Youth with Special Health Needs (CYSHN) met to determine purpose and decided to meet monthly. Family Home Visiting met and discussed the group charge and decided to meet quarterly. Looking to add 4-5 more participants from across the state to the subcommittee. Infant & Early Childhood decided to meet bi-monthly, reviewed the charges, and made modifications as needed to determine charge priority. Child & Adolescent Health meet and decided to meet twice a month to start, then once a month. They looked at the subcommittee charges and are looking to add general population members as well.

Perinatal Subcommittee Update

Michelle O’Brien presented an update on the Perinatal Subcommittee strategic plan. Currently draft recommendations are finalized and MDH communications is reviewing. Next step is community feedback from listening sessions and the action phase with work groups. A gap analysis and baseline assessment were completed by the Management Analysis & Development group. A subcommittee evaluation was launched and are working together to grow and improve. The next quarterly newsletter will come out in late June. A request to share the AMCHP poster via email to the Task Force group was made.

Title V

Elizabeth Taylor-Schiro shared with the group about the Title V MCH Block Grant Overview. A time of discussion and observation with questions and answers ensued. The overview slides will be provided by MCH via email.

Member News

Judy Edwards shared on behalf of Sameerah Bilal-Roby of a conference coming up in July, will send the notice via email to the Task Force. Marie Malinowski asked about any knowledge about the Transforming Maternal Health (TMAH) model, a CMS 10-year state-based initiative focused on improving maternal health care for people enrolled in Medicaid and Chip. DHS was hosting ongoing listening sessions around this issue. Michelle O'Brien shared about the Perinatal subcommittee & the Women's Health department being accepted into the government policy fellowship for maternal mental health program, meeting monthly, working to getting a maternal psychiatry program in Minnesota. Rachel Gilbertson shared about the Heart-to-Heart initiative, piloting in St. Louis county, providing family home visiting to those experiencing hypertension in pregnancy. Heart-to-Heart is receiving a national award at the NACHO conference. Candy Seil shared about Baby Know: Bodies, Hearts and Minds, a program with speech language pathologists, occupational therapists, and early-childhood parent educators, helping parents in the 0 to 12 months of baby's life.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by consultant Judy Plante.