



Maternal and Child Health Advisory Task Force Meeting Summary Friday, February 10, 2023

Members Present:

Carolyn Allshouse
Vanessa Bembridge
Paige Anderson Bowen
Tricia Brisbane
Stephanie de Sam Lazaro
Joi Elmore
Kara Hamilton-McGraw
Pat Lang
Meredith Martinez
Eugene Nichols
Deb Purfeerst
Tamiko Ralston
Jamie Stang
Nancy Taff
Megan Waltz
Lindsey Wimmer

Members Absent:

Bryn Basri
Sameerah Bilal-Roby
Stephanie Graves
Michelle O'Brien
Jamie Slaughter-Acey
Jayne Whiteford

MDH Staff

Nicole Brown
Karen Fogg
Mary Manning
Molly Meyer
Elizabeth Taylor-Schiro
Lisa Thimjon
Lynn Thompson
Anne Walaszek
Noya Woodrich

Guests

Sarah Brown
Marie Malinowski
Candi Seil
Rebekah Sundby
Wendy Walz

Welcome, Introductions and Chair Remarks

Paige Anderson Bowen, Task Force Chair, welcomed everyone and introductions were made. It was moved and seconded to approve the February meeting agenda. She also announced that Sameerah Bilal-Roby is chair-elect and will serve as co-chair for the remainder of this year and will be chair next year. She also noted that Eugene Nichols, Stephanie Graves, and Sameerah volunteered to serve on the Executive Committee. Paige also announced Nancy Taff has stepped down as an Ex-officio member of the Task Force.

Legislative Updates

Lisa Thimjon updated the Task Force on the fiscal year 2024-25 budget recommendations from MDH Commissioner Brooke Cunningham. These include strengthening public health and preparedness, reducing disparities, timing critical prevention to address emerging or worsening health threats, Healthy Start, health care access, affordability and quality, current service needs and maintaining safe and healthy drinking water. She noted that MDH is proposing an Office of American Indian Health and Office of African American Health. In addition, there are Telehealth in Libraries, 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline

and Community Mental Health Wellbeing, Healthy Beginnings/Healthy Families and Help Me Connect proposals.

ACTION ITEM – send Lisa’s presentation to the Task Force

MDH Updates

Paige congratulated Assistant Commissioner Manning wished her the best on her retirement.

Assistant Commissioner Manning noted that she is very excited about the MDH legislative proposals.

Paige noted that 2021-2022 Commissioner Report had been unanimously approved via an email vote.

Paige called for a vote to approve the Stillbirth Advisory Workgroup Report. It was moved and seconded to approve the Stillbirth Advisory Workgroup Report. Motion passed.

Child and Family Health Updates

Division Director Noya Woodrich shared that the Family Home Visiting manager position is open. She is looking to have someone on board by April 1.

FHV has been dealing with a lot of staff turnover and she would like them to have conversations with the Children’s Cabinet. She also noted that the program is lacking staff with MECOSH knowledge, and they hope to recruit someone with this knowledge.

The division completed its equity plan in the fall of 2022 and a new workgroup has been created.

MDH received CDC grant in October that enables each division in the department to hire a health equity champion. Noya is working with Halkeno in the division of Health Equity to finalize the job description and get it posted. The incumbent’s sole purpose will be to focus on health equity. More details will follow.

The Title V annual report is in the process of being compiled. MDH staff Elizabeth Taylor-Schiro will be coordinating the submission of this report.

CFH submitted 6 budget ideas to the legislature and all 6 have been approved.

Discussion of Task Force Meetings

Paige shared results of the meeting poll that members completed. Results are as follows:

- Meeting every other month
- Meeting on Fridays
- Prefer virtual meetings
- Prefer 2 hours
- Quarterly meetings – 3 hours

- Meeting outside of the metro – maybe – one of the outstate Minnesota members noted that they are concerned about the time commitment. Another member suggested we table this issue for the future.
- Betty Hubbard Award ceremony month – October and December – one member noted that they prefer a month without winter weather. Paige noted it may depend on who the recipients are. Possibly late September/early October. We need to consult the work plan to plan around this year's date.
- Betty Hubbard Award meeting – in person

I-MOM Task Force Subcommittee Update

Anne Walaszek, MCH I-MOM grant coordinator, presented on the I-MOM grant's goals which are to:

- Build a shared vision for maternal health
- Improve data access and expand surveillance
- Improve the collection, reporting and analysis of QI data

She shared the expectations of the task force's Perinatal Health sub-committee. She asked members interested in participating on this subcommittee to contact her at anne.walaszek@state.mn.us

ACTION ITEM (MDH Staff): Invite Candi and Wendy to a future Task Force meeting for a more detailed presentation on their companies.

Member News and Issues

Guests Candi Seil and Wendy Walz provided a high-level overview of their companies, Let's Talk Kids and BABY KNOW: Bodies, Hearts & Minds.

ACTION ITEM (Task Force members): invite Candi and Wendy to a future Task Force meeting for a more detailed presentation on their companies.

There was discussion regarding the BIPOC doula footprint in Minnesota from guest Marie Malinowski of the Blue Cross/Blue Shield Medicaid program.

Meredith reported that Hennepin County has an initiative focused on a birth justice coalition. She is excited to participate in the I-MOM project.

Nancy Taff shared a farewell to the Task Force and noted that Vanessa Bembridge will be taking her place.

Adjourn (next meeting – Friday, April 14, 2023)