



Maternal and Child Health Advisory Task Force Meeting Summary

Friday, March 14, 2025

Members Present

Candi Seil
Carolyn Allshouse
Eugene Nichols
Joi Elmore
Lindsey Wimmer
Marie Malinowski
Nicole Fernandez
Sadie Swenson
Stephanie de Sam Lazaro
Stephanie Graves
Tamiko Ralston
Tricia Brisbane
Vanessa Bembridge

Members Absent

Andrea Lawson
Brittany Becker
Elizabeth Pihlaja
Rachael Joseph
Sameera Bilal-Roby

MDH Staff

Meredith O'Brien
Nicole Brown
Judy Edwards
Elizabeth Taylor-Schiro
Ramya Palaniappan
Bella Rolland
Amy Stauter

Guests

Lisa Thimjon
Judy Plante

Welcome, Introductions, and Chair Remarks

Joi Elmore, Task Force member and newly elected chairperson, welcomed everyone and began the meeting. Task Force Members and guests made introductions, shared updates, and presented current challenges. A motion was made and seconded to approve the March 14, 2025, agenda.

MCH Advisory Task Force Restructure Review

Nicole Brown shared about the MCH Advisory Task Force Restructure, including purpose, budget needs, statues, roles, responsibilities, and alignment with CFH and Title V. The current sub-committees, Family Home Visiting, CYSHN, Perinatal, Child/Adolescent Health, and Infant and Early Childhood, were formed from the restructure.

Child and Family Health Updates

New Assistant Division Director, Meredith O'Brien, shared some CFH updates, on behalf of Director Noya Woodrich. She shared about a new format for the CFH Division Updates given to Advisory Task Force members. CFH has a new Assistant Commissioner, Dr. Halkena Tura. He was formerly the assistant commissioner for the Health Equity Bureau. Isabella Rolland is new to CFH, specializing in Preschool Development Grant coordination. Meredith also shared that Black Maternal Health Week is April 11-17 and there will be a podcast Noya will participate in during that week. There will also be a panel of local

experts and specialists. The CYSHN Local Public Health annual meeting will be in St. Cloud on May 5th and 6th.

Legislative Update

Lisa Thimjon gave a legislative update. The MN Legislature is currently 67-67. A revised budget was released that will create challenges in two years. Two bills presented and debated were to remove \$4 million dollars from the MDH budget and to revoke minor consent laws. Senate File 1167 changes maternal death studies to mandatory, within available funding. House File 953 requires infant abuse education. House File 1029 would add MLD to the newborn screening panel in Minnesota.

Subcommittee Updates

Sadie Swenson updated about the Family Home Visiting Subcommittee. As a subcommittee, they discuss FHV progress monitoring reports and MDH data overviews, program updates, and 2025 strategic planning. Currently, local agencies were able to give some feedback on how FHV has made an impact. Site visits are scheduled for 2025; more visits will be offered. An audit was conducted and FHV aspects being discussed for the Strategic Plan. Strong Foundations-funded agencies can apply for a professional development grant. In-person training is in May and agencies can use this funding for this training.

Joi Elmore and Ramya Palaniappan updated about the Perinatal Subcommittee. The Strategic Plan ended on 12/30/24 and an analysis is underway. Community Listening Sessions are being held with three community partners to host. Community Action Teams are hoped to form to move the I-Mom work forward.

Nicole Brown updated about the Children and Youth with Special Health Needs Subcommittee. Currently have been meeting to orient with the CYSHN section, including a combined meeting with the Title V Steering committee's CYSHN workgroup to help identify priorities and objectives. Reviewing Respect for Identities Statement and service-learning guidance for CYSHN staff. Will be meeting to potentially review the Title V report and action plan for CYSHN Domain.

Gene Nichols updated about the Child and Adolescent Subcommittee. Looking to expand to more state-wide membership. Met on January 22, announced new members in the February Adolescent Health newsletter. The next meeting is April 9 and will be learning more about the Title V Block grant, exploring ways to stay in touch and continue work between meetings, and continue to establish how to work together on the subcommittee charge.

Title V

Elizabeth Taylor-Schiro shared an overview and update about Title V. The five funding focus areas are Family Planning, Improved Pregnancy Outcome, Infant Health, Child and Adolescent Health, and Children with Special Health Care Needs. Population domains include Woman/Maternal Health, Perinatal/Infant Health, Child Health, Children and Youth with Special Health Needs, and Adolescent Health. The Title V Needs Assessment happens every five years that focus on funding focus areas and population domains. The last Needs Assessment was in 2020 and is currently in the Community Feedback stage of the 2025 Title V Needs Assessment. Previous stages include Planning, Landscape

Analysis, Prioritization and Action Planning. The final stage will be Dissemination. A state-wide survey will be implemented to view the action plan.

Adjournment

Judy Edwards mentioned there are three Task Force vacancies to be filled, two Community Health Board and one Professional. Chairperson Joi Elmore thanked the members for a great meeting and good work and their time and commitment to the Task Force. She reminded the group that the next meeting is June 13 and moved to adjourn the meeting.