

MHI Task Force Summer Quarterly Meeting

July 26, 2022, 2:30-4:00 PM ET

Virtual

MINUTES

Task force Members Present: Alyson Jacobson; Andrea Williams-Muhammad; Ann Burke; Bonnie Dipietro; Courtney McFadden; David Mann; Donna M. Neale; Erin McClain; Jeanne Sheffield; Kacie McLaughlin; Kanika Harris; Katie Richards; Kelly Bower; Kristen Brooks; Kristen Newman; Larry Polsky; Laura Goodman; Lauren Arrington; Lorraine Milio; Maxine Reed Vance; Patricia Liggins; Tanay Lynn Harris

MDH staff: Alena Troxel, Nina Martin

Welcome and Introductions

The Co-Chairs welcomed the group and asked new members to introduce themselves.

Review of the revised charter

The Co-Chairs reviewed the charter (Attached) and the added language specifying the process by which external topics and guests will be added to meetings. During the discussion it was noticed that two individuals were present who were not part of the task force. Both were asked to come by other task force members as guests or as proxies, and were respectfully asked to leave the meeting. One guest was invited to stay due to mandatory observation requirements from HRSA. The Co-Chairs noted we will clarify those procedures and remind members about the guest policy for future meetings. One task force member noted that the group may want to revisit how it approaches naming proxies and ensuring there is the opportunity for individuals to send others in their place if they cannot attend. The Co-Chairs clarified that the intent is around ensuring advance notice, and that the process safeguards the task force's work and efforts.

Review of 06/09/22 meeting minutes and discussion

The group reviewed the summary of the 06/09/22 in-person meeting, and discussed the mapping activity. Several noted that needs and factors influencing maternal health may vary by geography, and the committee may want to think on how they will consider overlapping needs such as poverty or provider availability. The group discussed the importance of knowing the local landscape, and that the recommendation to start regional sub groups was put forward as a way of better understanding local concerns. They also considered how the task force can look at intersections of factors that impact a birthing person. Another member suggested the task force reach out to local fetal and infant mortality review (FIMR) committees (recent reports linked [here](#)) as many of the influences or factors they identify in their work may also impact maternal health. They also noted that grantees receiving state quality improvement grants are required to have a health equity component, so may have information of

interest to the task force. One group member noted that this map only reflects the organizations on the task force, and the importance of identifying who is missing or not present.

Discussion #1: Expanding on map of resources and activities in Maryland - Jamboard activity

Following the review of the 06/09 notes, the group continued discussing organizations and individuals the task force should connect with who are engaged on maternal health equity. The discussion board is linked [here](#); highlighted groups include:

- Local health departments
- Healthy Families America
- Federally-qualified health centers (FQHCs)
- Family planning services
- Black Mental Health Alliance
- Community Action Groups
- Perinatal mental health providers

Presentation of severe maternal morbidity data

One Co-Chair presented a map prepared by MDH highlighting severe maternal morbidity (SMM) counts and rates by jurisdiction of residence. Several task members had questions about the data informing the graphics, and requested additional analyses by SMM event type, hospital of delivery, transportation, age, race/ethnicity, and zip code. One member also suggested overlaying against COVID-19 data, and access to family planning. They requested a presentation from MDH epidemiology to further understand this data. They also asked if MDH is able to share this slide, which MDH will confirm in meeting follow up.

Closing, next steps, and adjournment

The Co-Chairs noted that two articles were shared before today's meeting, and that these frameworks will be the starting points of ongoing conversations to direct the task forces work. One task force member shared she will transition out of her role on the task force and will introduce her new committee member prior to the next meeting. Another member echoed an earlier comment about the importance the role of family planning plays in preventing unintended pregnancies. One task force member noted that in the past legislative session \$3.5M will be dedicated to expanding provider training for abortion services. They noted there may be latitude to expand training for family planning as well. As the group considers workforce issues, they may want to consider future provider training.

Finally, one member asked whether it would be appropriate to share updates on the "[Healthy Babies Equity Act](#)" (HB1080) legislation from MDH. A MDH representative noted that they can come to next meeting with an updated timeline.

The group agreed to find time in September for an optional in-person meeting to discuss task force outreach and equity. The Co-Chairs reminded the group that the next official fall quarterly meeting will be on October 25, 2022 from 2:30-4:00 PM Eastern. The meeting was adjourned.

Group Action items:

- Review the two framing articles (McClemore 2022 and Scott & Davis 2022)
- Share names of at least two potential individuals with Co-Co-Chairs