

Maternal Health Improvement Task Force

Winter Quarterly Meeting
January 24, 2023 | 2:30-4:00 PM ET

For those joining virtually:
Video call link: <https://meet.google.com/ncw-cbcn-rja>
Or dial: (US) +1 608-909-0217 PIN: 743 065 163#

NOTES

Task Force members present: Kelly Bower, Kristen Brooks, Ann Burke, Elizabeth Chung, Adriane Burgess, Cathy Costa, Kanika Harris, Alyson Jacobson, Clark Johnson, Traci LaValle, Stacey Lobst, Tanay Lynn Harris, David Mann, Ashley Milcetic, Donna Neale, Kristen Newmann, Larry Polsky, Gene Ransom, Maxine Reed-Vance, Melange Scot

MDH members present: Tere Dickson, Nina Martin, Courtney McFadden, Cassidy Spence

2:30-2:40 PM Welcome and introduction of new members

Co-Chair Neale opened the meeting and welcomed the group; new members introduced themselves.

2:40-2:50 PM Task Force Business

The Co-Chairs reviewed the attendance policy outlined in the charter. They noted the requirement that members attend at least 50% of meetings in a calendar year, and that members will be notified if they have not met that requirement and will be removed from the group. They also noted that meetings are for Task Force members only, and that all guests, including proxies, need to be approved by the Co-Chairs in advance. Furthermore, they clarified that proxies need to be members of the same organization as the absent member. Nina will share a copy of the charter in the post-meeting follow up.

2:50-3:20 PM Progress on the Maternal Health Strategic Plan Action Plan Update

Co-Chair Neale reviewed the plan to update the Maternal Health Strategic Plan that was introduced at the October 2022 quarterly meeting. Since that meeting MDH has conducted a preliminary status update on progress to the activities named in the current Action Plan. They then discussed the goal of collectively reviewing the current strategic plan to identify 1) whether the current priorities, goals, and tactics are appropriate and 2) modifying or identifying additional goals, priorities, tactics, and measurements to ensure the strategic plan is grounded in principles of birth equity. Task Force members are invited to join one of five work groups centered around the strategic plan priorities. This process will be guided by the “Retrofit, Reimagine, and Reform” framework outlined in McLemore, 2022 (attached in post-meeting follow up).

The group discussed this update plan, and provided feedback on the overall goals and outreach strategies. The Co-Chairs clarified that these work groups are closed to task force members, but members are encouraged to lean on the expertise of their members and colleagues as appropriate.

During the meeting members were invited to submit which work groups they'd like to join, and can email Nina after the meetings to sign up after reviewing the strategic plan (see initial sign up lists below).

3:20-3:55 PM Update on Survey of Birthing Services in Maryland

Nina provided a brief overview of the progress made to develop an inventory of birthing services in Maryland that was introduced at the October 2022 meeting. Since then in coordination with the Co-Chairs and Dr. Kanika Harris, the Task Force's Equity Advisor, Nina has developed a draft of a survey to gather this information. Nina presented the background of the project and the October 2022 discussion, then reviewed the draft of the survey with the Task Force. Before opening the floor for discussion, she specifically asked the Task Force to consider if the types of organizations listed capture everyone.

The group was encouraged to see the survey draft, and made suggestions to add additional components, including funding sources by category (both funding received and funding provided to other groups), payment mechanisms, and languages used. The Task Force was interested to understand who we expect to complete the survey. The Co-Chairs clarified that the survey is intended for service providers, but all are welcome to complete it. Task Force members will be the first wave to complete the survey, and then will be encouraged to pass the survey on to colleagues and others in their networks who provide services to birthing people. One member suggested adding a QR code to the outreach materials for easy access. Co-Chair Neale asked that members provide an introduction to Nina if you would like her to share with your networks, but can also send independently. Nina will provide template outreach language.

The group also discussed sustainability for the survey and who will be responsible for regular updates. Nina clarified that we are still refining what capacity we will have to continue this after this first iteration.

3:55-4:00 PM Wrap up and closing

The group closed by reviewing the meeting times for the remaining 2023 quarterly meetings. The Spring quarterly meeting is scheduled for April 25, 2023 from 2:30 to 4:00pm ET. It will likely be in person and the location will be shared by MDH in the next few weeks.

Sign up List for Strategic Plan Work Groups (as of 01.27.2023)

Work Group 1: Equity and Anti-Racism	Work Group 2: Achieve Improved Health Using the Life Course Model	Work Group 3: Families and Communities	Work Group 4: Data	Work Group 5: Workforce
David Mann	Maxine Reed-Vance	Ashley Milcetic	Gene Ransom	Clark Johnson
Traci La Valle	Cathy Costa	Elizabeth Chung	Ann Burke	Kristen Brooks
	Kristen Newman		Stacey Lobst	
	Larry Polsky			