



# SDOH COMMITTEE MEETING

**Date:** August 20, 2025 9:00 am to 10:00 am -Virtual

**Name of note taker:** Ana Bueno

**Attendees:** Erin Nescott, Danielle Johnson, Jennifer Pulcinella, Michelle Statham, Ifunanya Ifezulike, Shebra Hall, Lisa Savino, Emily Haas Katzen, Makaila Davis, Jacqueline Corbin-Armstrong, Adriana Viveros Sosa, Alex Wynn, Helen Arthur, Dara Hall, Dara Dupont, Jackie Armstrong, Leah Jones, Lidy Garcia-Bunuel and Ana Bueno.

Agenda Item	Notes
Welcome and Roll Call	The Social Determinants of Health Committee meeting began with Ray welcoming members and introducing new members, Amani Coleman, Michelle Johnson, and David Hack. Ana confirmed that Makaila Davis was present and noted that no public attendees were present.
Approval of March Meeting Minutes	Ray Fitzgerald asked for a motion to approve the March 2025 Minutes. Michelle Statham made a motion to approve. Lisa Savino seconded. Minutes were approved.
Updates from other committees	<p>The Maternal Health Task Force is developing a 5-year strategic plan focused on supporting pregnant and postpartum women with substance use disorder, with five peer support doulas recently hired and trained through Impact Life to provide 12-month support.</p> <p>The Data Committee is conducting a study on prenatal care access with Part 2 scheduled for September, while the Well Women Committee is creating video vignettes through the Her Story 2.0 Workgroup to document women's pregnancy experiences.</p> <p>The next DHMIC meeting is scheduled for September 24th at Dell Tech, and the housing work group has been meeting with Social Contract consultants.</p> <p><b>ACTION ITEM:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Members to attend next DHMIC is on September 24, 2025, at Del Tech in Dover, Conference One center</li></ul>
Housing Workgroup Updates	<p>Co-chairs met with Social Contract to develop a strategy for housing recommendations for pregnant women, focusing on securing funding and vouchers from the Governor's office and the Secretary's office.</p> <p>Ray informed members that the Housing Workgroup will be having a design session on September 23, 2025, from 10am to 1pm at Blue Hen Corporate Center.</p> <p>The group discussed the importance of incorporating diverse perspectives into the design of a program for pregnant women experiencing housing insecurity. Ray emphasized the need for input from those with direct experience, suggesting that one</p>

	<p>or two individuals be invited to the design session. Liddy proposed holding listening sessions after the program is designed to gather feedback from end users. The team agreed to review synthesized feedback from previous focus groups and consider inviting someone who has experienced homelessness while pregnant to the design session.</p>
Any updates from members that would help the housing pilot design session	<p>The group discussed housing needs for pregnant women with substance use and mental health concerns, emphasizing the importance of on-site support and accessibility. Danielle highlighted the challenges faced by women with medical needs, such as wound care or HIV, which can exclude them from certain housing options. Erin introduced the concept of remote supports for people with developmental disabilities, suggesting a potential model for supporting pregnant women with varying levels of independence. Emily raised the need for representation from substance use treatment centers, and Liddy mentioned Dominica Personti's involvement, but Emily agreed to suggest additional providers.</p> <p><b>Rural Healthcare Access Challenges</b></p> <p>The group discussed healthcare access issues in a rural area, where Jennifer highlighted the lack of OB-GYN appointments and prenatal care facilities, particularly affecting migrant workers and non-English speakers. Ray suggested providing transportation and car seats to address these challenges but emphasized the need to understand specific issues before implementing solutions. The discussion concluded with Ray proposing the creation of a centralized facility to better serve targeted populations, with the potential for on-site medical services and Jennifer agreeing that establishing local OB-GYN care was a priority.</p> <p><b>Healthcare Access Disparities in Delaware</b></p> <p>Jennifer expressed concerns about the lack of healthcare access in Sussex County, highlighting disparities between urban and rural areas. Ray clarified that he had experience managing social services across Delaware's counties and assured Jennifer that Sussex was not neglected. Emily raised serious concerns about the lack of OB-GYN and specialty providers in Delaware, emphasizing the need for prenatal care to improve health outcomes. She offered support through Christiana's Direct Care Center, which provides transportation and high-risk OB services. Jennifer shared her daughter's struggles in accessing OB-GYN appointments, emphasizing the need for better healthcare access for all women in the state.</p> <p><b>Prenatal Housing Access Program Discussion</b></p> <p>The group discussed concerns about housing access for pregnant women, with Jennifer sharing her experience of living near a hospital but facing challenges in accessing prenatal care in Sussex County. Liddy clarified that the proposed SRAP voucher pilot program is statewide, not limited to Wilmington or New Castle County, and emphasized the importance of considering transportation access when placing women. Helen Arthur raised the broader issue of health outcomes for this population, suggesting that the initiative should address not just housing but also access to healthy food and transportation to medical facilities.</p> <p><b>Community Resource Access Strategies</b></p> <p>The meeting focused on addressing community needs, particularly families facing housing insecurity and limited access to resources. Adriana highlighted the</p>

	<p>challenges nonprofits face with funding cuts and the need for wraparound services and case management to support vulnerable populations, including those in the Haitian and Spanish-speaking communities. Ray emphasized the program's goal to provide wraparound services and case management to connect participants with existing resources, while Dara suggested leveraging existing systems like Medicaid and home visiting programs to avoid duplication and fill gaps. Jennifer advised maximizing visits to Wilmington by tapping into all available services.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jackie Armstrong suggested considering the needs of individuals dealing with SUD to ensure they receive the right support to manage the disease. She also emphasized the importance of having capacity to help mothers with young children and having case management available onsite.</li> <li>• Danielle Johnson recommended including medical needs such as wound care related to SUD.</li> <li>• Leah Jones highlighted the importance of wraparound services, including evidence-based home visiting programs for pregnant women eligible for the pilot. She also emphasized financial coaching as a critical support.</li> <li>• Emily Haas Katzen agreed with Jennifer Pulcinella that there are not enough providers in Sussex County, sharing that she must travel to Maryland for services. She suggested Jennifer refer clients to Christiana, where she has a strong team.</li> <li>• Jennifer Pulcinella noted that during first appointments, there is often little progress, which can lead to missed opportunities for clients to return. She also suggested maximizing upstate visits by ensuring clients see as many providers and receive as much support as possible during a single trip.</li> <li>• Helen Arthur recommended prioritizing transportation, especially in Sussex County, and focusing on health outcomes for this population. She emphasized health and well-being, including access to healthy foods such as fruits and vegetables.</li> <li>• Leah Jones also indicated the group could integrate a referral mechanism to Healthy Women Healthy Baby providers to improve well-woman care access.</li> <li>• Liddy proposed developing a checklist for women using SRAP vouchers to evaluate housing options, considering factors such as transportation, access to healthy foods, and recreational opportunities.</li> <li>• Ray noted that the program will provide wraparound services for pregnant women statewide.</li> <li>• Dara Hall stressed the importance of avoiding duplication of efforts, citing car seat distribution as an example where another organization already provides this service.</li> <li>• Adriana Viveros-Sosa shared a link to resources available through the Community Health Workers Association of Delaware: <a href="https://chwadelaware.org/chw-resources/">https://chwadelaware.org/chw-resources/</a></li> </ul>
Next Steps	<p>Next meeting October 1, 2025 from 9:00 am to 10:30am</p> <p><b>ACTION ITEMS:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SDoH Co-chairs to provide updates during the DHMIC Executive Committee meeting on September 27, 2025.</li> </ul>
Adjournment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meeting adjourned at 9:59am</li> </ul>

