



Social Determinants of Health Committee Meeting Minutes

December 18, 2024

DRAFT

Attendees:

Rep. Melissa Minor Brown

Ray Fitzgerald (Bereavement leave)

Helen Arthur

Emily Haas Katzen

Karen McGloughlin

Jen Pulcinella

Michelle Statham

Dr. Garrett Colmorgen

Erin Nescott

Dara Hall

Alexandra Wynn

Lisa Savino

Ifunanya Ifezuike

Makaila Davis

Shaila Kapur

Monica Scott

Danielle Johnson

Shebra Hall

Jacqueline Corbin-Armstrong

Forrest Watson III

Rebecca Sax

Amanda Weaver

Katie Labgold

Public Attendees:

April Lyons

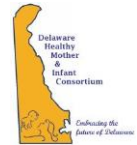
Ana informed the committee about the orientation session held the previous day, which was attended by nine new members. Rep. Minor Brown welcomed new members and asked them to introduce themselves after she did roll call. All committee members were asked to put their names in the chat for record-keeping.

1. Call to Order and Approval of Minutes

- **Time:** 9:02 AM
- Rep. Minor Brown called the meeting to order and asked for a motion to approve the September 10, 2024, meeting minutes.
- Mawuna Gardesey moved a motion to approve. Michelle Statham seconded the motion. The motion was approved without opposition.

2. HWHB Evaluation Report

- **Overview:** Liddy presented the HWHB Final Evaluation Report. Leah discussed the committee's shift in investment towards addressing social determinants of health over the past five years. She highlighted the establishment of the committee, the allocation of grants to community-based organizations, and the establishment of place-based interventions. Leah also mentioned the successful Guaranteed Basic Income (GBI) pilot project and the final report on the committee's work. Liddy added that the report includes the results of the GBI pilot project and the committee's plans for future work.



Shaila asked about the pause in the GBI pilot project, to which Liddy and Leah explained that the committee is taking time to reflect on the report, assess the impact of their work, and plan for future iterations. The conversation ended with a discussion about the recommendations of the Housing Work group.

- Report being approved by DHMIC members and will be shared with committee members once approved.

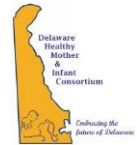
3. Housing Workgroup Recommendations-Presented by Liddy Garcia-Bunuel

Liddy discussed the formation and activities of the Housing Work Group, which was created to develop recommendations specific to maternal child health on housing. The group, consisting of representatives from various organizations, met six times between June and November, with most meetings held in person. The group created specific recommendations, including the creation of a central intake process for all five housing authorities, the prioritization of pregnant women on the waiting list, and the use of TANF surplus dollars to create a pilot program for high-risk, unstably housed pregnant women. Liddy also acknowledged that the group did not receive consumer input during the process. Shaila asked about the opportunity for consumer input, to which Liddy responded that they focused more on a systems approach.

Liddy mentioned that they had conducted focus groups with women at Bayard House to understand their needs and suggestions. Liddy proposed a pilot program using TANF surplus dollars, with the division of public health as the referral agency and purchasing vouchers for eligible pregnant women. The program would provide navigation, and wraparound supports to ensure pregnant and postpartum women can secure a property and get linked to other services and healthcare. The program would be evaluated similar to the GBI pilot. Liddy also discussed a safe and secure options to support maternity villages and houses as a short-term solution for unstably housed pregnant women. The goal is to move them to permanent supportive housing. April Lyons (public) raised concerns about engaging the community and the potential displacement of women in public housing if they have a partner with a criminal record.

Addressing Housing Barriers for Mothers

The discussion revolved around addressing barriers faced by pregnant and postpartum women in housing situations. Committee member acknowledged the need for legislative changes to support these women and agreed on the importance of prioritizing them in housing allocation. However, concerns were raised about potential abuse of the system, with suggestions for ensuring the program's integrity. The team agreed to continue the conversation and ensure that the voices of those experiencing housing insecurity are heard in the decision-making process.



Supporting High-Risk Pregnant Women Program

SDOH Committee members discussed the implementation of a program to support high-risk pregnant women. They agreed that the program would not be open to all pregnant women but specifically to those at high risk. The program would be funded through surplus dollars from the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program, which had accumulated 20 million dollars. The team also discussed the need for checks and balances to ensure the program's funds were used appropriately. They further discussed the importance of removing restrictive zoning to increase affordable housing stock in Delaware. Lastly, they supported the expansion of home ownership programs operated by housing authorities to aid first-time home buyers.

Improving Housing Stability for Mothers

The Housing Work Group discussed their recommendations for improving housing stability for pregnant women and new mothers in Delaware. They agreed to move forward with the recommendations, which will be presented to the entire DHMIC. The group also discussed the need for follow-up and ensuring that the recommendations are not abused. They acknowledged the importance of addressing the root causes of homelessness and the need for wraparound services. The group also discussed the need for coordination with other agencies to avoid duplication and ensure that the recommendations are implemented effectively. The next steps include creating task-based work groups to implement the recommendations, with a focus on central intake and prioritization of pregnant women, and the SRAP pilot program. The group also discussed the importance of valuing the voice of lived experience and ensuring ongoing feedback from individuals with real-life experience.

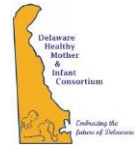
Inclusion, Capacity, and Holiday Self-Care

The Committee discussed the importance of including lived experience participants in their work groups. They agreed on the need for real-life experience participants and the importance of building capacity within meetings to ensure everyone understands the jargon and norms. The team also discussed the need for equity in their work and the importance of not leaving anyone out.

Vote on recommendations: Shaila Kapur moved a motion to approve the housing workgroup recommendations seconded by Dara Hall. All members were in favor. SDOH Committee approved presenting the housing recommendations to the DHMIC.

- Emily commented that this ties in with the best practice to focus on 3rd and trimester and 4th trimester need to be considered.

4. 2025 Proposed SDOH committee Goals



Proposed 2025 goals for SDOH Committee will be to implement approved housing workgroup recommendations via two task-oriented, time limited workgroups. Liddy suggested to form 2 workgroups. One a Central Intake and Prioritization of Pregnant Women Workgroup and second, a SRAP Pilot Program workgroup.

Workgroup tasks

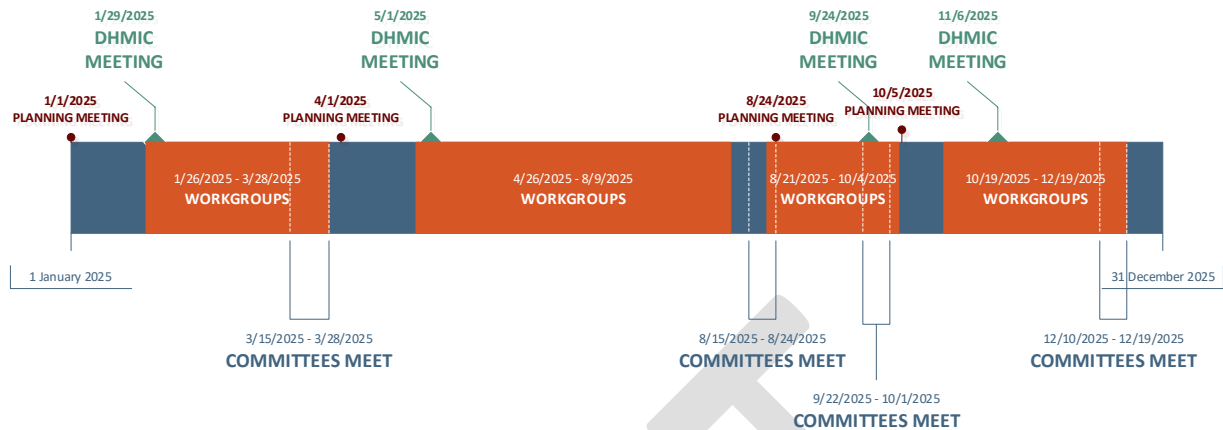
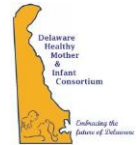
- Meet monthly either in-person or virtual staffed by HMA, as consultant to DPH
- Create and implement workplan with smartie goals based on housing workgroup recommendations
- Report back to SDOH Committee

Discussion:

- Jennifer Pulcinella suggested to focus on 4th trimester
- Rep. Minor-Brown suggested to circle back with GBI participants to bring them back to the table to provide feedback on implementation
- Karen McGloughlin asked if there are other initiatives that are working on increasing the affordable housing stock in DE? Such as incentives to developers to not build huge homes but smaller ones that people can afford. Michelle Statham indicated that currently DE has the Affordable Housing Task Force which has been meeting and incentives to developers has been a large topic of conversation in the subcommittees as well as zoning to increase stock
- Rebecca Sax suggested to share information directly in time and language that works with lived experience participants if they feel more comfortable than attending meetings.
- Dr. Colmorgen noted that the DPQC has received a grant from HRSA which we will be using to assure immediate postpartum care and follow-up, but it will also have an emphasis on the fourth trimester and the year after delivery.
- Erin Nescott mentioned that within her role at KIDS COUNT she can offer that service to the group- translating the data, elevating the voices of lived experience thru qual data.

5. Proposed Meeting Cadence

Liddy presented the meeting cadence below for 2025, with work groups meeting six weeks prior to a DHMIC meeting to report on their progress. SDOH Committee members agreed. The team also discussed the need for public comment in their meetings.



6. Next Steps and Closing Remarks

- Work Groups to implement recommendations approved by the committee, including central intake prioritization for pregnant women and SRAP pilot program.
- HMA to send out Doodle poll to determine best day/time for 2025 committee meetings, and schedule 2025 committee meetings in advance based on proposed cadence.
- HMA to send link to Healthy Women, Healthy Babies final evaluation report to committee members.
- SDOH Co-chairs to meet with Governor-elect to discuss housing recommendations and priorities.
- Committee to incorporate lived experience experts into future housing work groups and implementation efforts.
- Committee to explore ways to address 4th trimester needs in housing recommendations and implementation.
- Dr. Colmorgen to provide DPQC updates at future committee meetings.

Public Comment:

- April Lyons recommended to add the voice of the consumer into implementation of housing workgroup recommendations.
 - She congratulated everyone using the chat function of the meeting.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 10:31am