

Social Determinants of Health Committee

May 13, 2024

Location: Virtual meeting: Recording link here:

Time: 10:00am to 11:00am

Meeting Minutes

Attendees (14 Attendees): Rep. Melissa Minor Brown, Ray Fitzgerald, Danielle Johnson (Mid Atlantic Education Center), Dara Hall, Erin Nescott, Jennifer Pulcinella, Leah Woodall, Lori Holsey, Nick Beard, Cynthia Guy, Helen Arthur (Chief Health promotion), Geroge Yocher (Epidemiologist DPH, PRAMS), Mawuna Gardesey, Liddy Garcia-Bunuel and Ana Bueno.

Approval of Minutes February 21, 2024, Meeting

Ray Fitzgerald made a motion to approve the minutes for the February 21, 2024, meeting previously sent to the Committee. Rep. Melissa Minor-Brown seconded the motion. Minutes were approved.

GBI Update

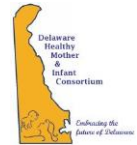
Liddy Garcia-Bunuel indicated that participants that are rolling off the GBI program are receiving letters by mail as well as emails a month before their last payment. She reminded that the program enrolled 40 women who receive 1,000 per month (\$500 bi-weekly) for two years with the case management from Rose Hill Community Center and DCADV.

Leah Woodall mentioned that at this point there is no additional funding to continue or expand this intervention as of May 13, 2024. This does not mean that the SDoH Committee can't elevate it to the DHMIC to try to get funding. There is a lot of interest at the federal level. Philadelphia has established this type of project as well as the abundant project in San Francisco which received money to continue in new areas to with the help of its partners.

Liddy mentioned that preliminary evaluation of the GBI program showed great return on investment, and it was already featured on national public radio.

Review of action items

- Co-Chairs will work with DPH to create a list prior to the next meeting.
 - Housing Workgroup to meet on June 14, 2024 in person in Dover.
 - Ray Shared the following list of organizations that are part of the housing workgroup:
 - Delaware Affordable Housing Group



- Wilmington Housing Authority
- University of Delaware
- DCADV
- Delaware Breast Cancer Coalition
- DSHA
- DPH
- Governor's Office
- Delaware State University
- DSHA
- New Castle County Housing Authority NCCHA
- Dover Housing Authority
- Newark Housing Authority
- Delaware First Health - MCO
- Highmark Health
- AmeriHealth Caritas
- Housing Alliance of Delaware
- Action for Delaware's Children
- Impact Life
- Leah Woodall asked co-chairs about the agenda of the first workgroup meeting. Both co-chairs clarified that they are still developing the agenda for the working group but they are hoping to focus on what the group will be doing long term and what should be done short term. Rep. Minor Brown would like to share the GBI result as it shows it works.
- SDOH Co-chairs will review ideas identified by committee members using the jam board and analyze for possibilities.
 - Last meeting the committee discussed the importance to explore the following funding opportunities:
 - TANF
 - Medicaid 1115 Waiver
 - MCOs
 - Federal funding/grants
 - Pay for Success Model
 - Hospital funding – similar to Baltimore
 - The committee created a jam board identifying what an ideal program would look like.

Ideal Housing program includes:

- Financial coaching
- Case management
- Wrap around supports
- Workforce development (Dept. of Labor)
- Strong evaluation to measure outcomes for the mom and the baby



- Peer support during and post-partum
 - Referral to home visiting programs
 - Control own housing stock to eliminate barriers
- Ray Fitzgerald will explore if he could add pregnancy in the preferences list to provide housing support.
 - Pregnant women are considered women with children, and they are already prioritized. Nothing further can be done at this time due to Fair Housing rules.
 - Leah asked how Boston approached this as they prioritized women in housing as Fair Housing is a federal rule. Collaborative between Boston public health agency and local Boston housing authority.
 - Ray suggested to possibly have a waiver with HUD.
 - Stevanna Sargeant to do research on how to prioritize pregnant women in the state.
 - Rep. Minor Brown shared the definition in Delaware and Recommendations on how to prioritize women.

Definition of a Pregnant Woman

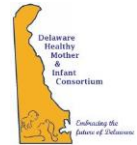
- 16 DE Admin Code 15200.1
- “‘Pregnant Woman’ means a woman during pregnancy and the postpartum period, which begins on the date the pregnancy ends, extends 60 days, and then ends on the last day of the month in which the 60-day period ends.”
- 45 CFR 47 Subpart B §46.202
- “Pregnancy encompasses the period of time from implantation until delivery. A woman shall be assumed to be pregnant if she exhibits any of the pertinent presumptive signs of pregnancy, such as missed menses, until the results of a pregnancy test are negative or until delivery.”
- <https://regulations.justia.com/states/delaware/title-16/departments-of-health-and-social-services/division-of-social-services/delaware-social-services-manual/15000/section-15000-15200/>
- <https://www.hhs.gov/ohrp/regulations-and-policy/regulations/45-cfr-46/common-rule-subpart-b/index.html>

Recommendations

- Create and pass legislation that provides medical support for undocumented pregnant women. Maryland, New Jersey, and Virginia all currently have programs that address and support this population. HB 150, currently in the House Appropriations Committee, includes a requirement for “prenatal, labor and delivery, and postpartum care to pregnant people regardless of immigration status”.



- Further investigate needs of incarcerated pregnant women within the state. The state already prohibits the use of restraints from the 2nd trimester to immediate postpartum, requires providing support when doing a 'squat and cough', and only allows vaginal examinations when requested and performed by a medical professional. As can be seen in the relevant table above, there are other protections and policies that can further support incarcerated pregnant Delawareans. Replicating Virginia's SB603 and forming a workgroup to find the specific needs of Delaware women who are incarcerated and pregnant should be considered.
<https://legis.delaware.gov/BillDetail/130345>
- Rep. Minor Brown shared that she is working on legislation to cover undocumented pregnant women in areas of need which currently are in Sussex.
- She shared that she believes there should be a resolution to urge the state to prioritize pregnant women including undocumented looking at unhoused or housing unstable women possibly focusing on liability of the state by not providing housing to them.
- Leah suggested for the definition to cover up to one year. Rep. Minor Brown agreed.
- Erin Nescott to find out what group is working to explore the Medicaid 1115 Waiver.
 - Erin reported that the youth program covers pregnant parents and the program will now have September start date.
 - Erin shared with the team that Steve is serving on the Waiver committee and they are working on a program starting the summer which will work with 35 Medicaid recipients for a six month period providing housing vouchers and services.
 - Mawuna asked Erin if receiving voucher guaranteed housing. Erin clarified that the waiver committee is pulling resources but there is no guarantee.
 - Ray suggested that a group a WHA has a way to connect pregnant women to housing if they are having trouble.
- HMA to investigate what states have implemented the 1115 Health-Related Social Needs Waiver and bring it back to the committee during the next meeting. HMA reported that:
 - CMS announced new flexibilities to use section 1115 demonstration authority to address "social determinants of health",
 - Re-termed "health related social needs," through 4 state 1115 approvals in the fall of 2022.
 - Oregon
 - Arizona
 - Massachusetts



- o Arkansas

The waivers address nutrition housing and other flexibilities including transportation and case management. It could go with 12-month post-partum benefit. There could be some housing connected to pregnant moms.

Service Delivery	Fiscal Policy	Related Requirements	Exclusions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> >>Must be medically appropriate, as determined using state-defined clinical and social risk factors. >>Must be the choice of the beneficiary, who can opt-out at any time. Can be required or disqualify beneficiary from other services. >>Must be integrated with existing social services (e.g., HUD, SNAP, etc.). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> >>"Hypothetical" Budget Neutrality >>Expenditures cannot exceed 3% of state's annual total Medicaid spend. >>Infrastructure costs cannot exceed 15% of total HRSN spend. >>HRSN spend cannot supplant social services funding. State spending on related social services must be minimally maintained. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> >>State must increase and (at least) sustain Medicaid fee-for-service provider base payment rates and Medicaid managed care payment rates in primary care, behavioral health, and obstetrics care, should the state's Medicaid to Medicare provider rate ratio be below 80 percent in any of these categories. >>Robust monitoring and evaluation requirements, including reporting on MOE and quality and health equity measures. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> >>Construction costs (bricks and mortar) or capital investments. >>Room and board outside of specifically enumerated care or housing transitions or beyond 6 months. >>Research grants and expenditures not related to monitoring and evaluation. >>Expenditures that supplant services and activities funded by other state and federal governmental entities.

Committee agreed for the housing workgroup to look at the information provided.

Jennifer Pulcinella mentioned that her daughter works for a group named "bananas" and using a co-op situation to have moms to leave and they have a day care.

Dara Hall suggested to look at the eviction protection for pregnant women.

Action

- HMA to explore how Boston was able to prioritize pregnant women.
- Erin to find out the services to be provided by the Medicaid pilot program as well ask if the vouchers have a way to guarantee housing.
- Rep. Minor Brown to work on how to start a resolution and to start the conversation on how to prioritize pregnant women possibly high risk or housing insecure.
- Jennifer Pulcinella to look at the program "Bananas" and send it to HMA hopefully prior June 14, 2024 for the workgroup to explore it as well.

Next Steps

- **Housing Workgroup in person meeting June 14, 2025.**