



# SDOH COMMITTEE MEETING

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

**Attendees:** Dr. Julius Mullen, Ray Fitzgerald, Leah Jones, Jennifer Pulcinella, Monica H. Fleming Scott, MSN, RN, Marci Eads, Erin Nescott, Jennifer Pulcinella, Michelle Statham, Sara Paris, Lisa Savino, Danielle Johnson, Emily Haas Katzen and Dara Hall.

**Facilitator:** Ana Bueno

Agenda Item	Notes
Welcome and Roll Call	Both Dr. Mullen and Ray Fitzgerald welcomed committee members to this strategic session to set the goal for 2026. Marci Eads was introduced as the new project director.
Approval of October 1, 2026	As meeting focused on the development of SMART Goals and members agreed the minutes will be sent for approval with the minutes from this meeting.
SMART Goals 2026 Development	<p>Ana reminded the committee of key SDoH Committee accomplishments, including the completion of the Guaranteed Basic Income Program and the evaluation demonstrating its impact. She also highlighted the development of a housing pilot program for pregnant families, which is planned for presentation to the Secretary.</p> <p>The committee reviewed the DHMIC Strategic Priorities as they relate to the SDoH Committee, which focus on building upon and strengthening promising community-based approaches and interventions that address both community perceptions and actual social determinants of health barriers. The committee also emphasized addressing the impact of social determinants of health through screening, referral, and linkage to services.</p> <p>In addition, the committee reviewed the 2025 SDoH Committee goals, which include continuing to implement, monitor, and evaluate demonstration projects focused on social determinants of health. These efforts aim to identify barriers and solutions, assess the need for and potential use of best practices for women in their third and fourth trimesters, and review housing assistance waitlists for pregnant individuals. Key goals and initiatives discussed included the Guaranteed Basic Income (GBI) program and efforts to address housing instability among pregnant women.</p> <p>The committee reviewed the most recent Title V Needs Assessment Stakeholder Survey, which was distributed to 512 stakeholders and received 62 responses. When asked to identify the biggest unmet needs of women, children, and families in the community, respondents most frequently <b>identified housing, access to healthcare, food security, mental health, and the ability to earn a living wage as the top priorities.</b></p>

	<p>Leah Jones provided additional context regarding Title V, noting that it is Delaware’s federally funded Maternal and Child Health block grant, which the state receives annually. She explained that, in addition to the annual federal application and site review, Delaware is required to conduct a comprehensive needs assessment every five years. This assessment uses a mixed-method approach that includes surveys, key informant interviews, focus groups, and the analysis of primary and secondary data. The synthesized findings from these data sources inform the state’s maternal and child health priorities and guide programmatic planning and action.</p> <p>Leah further noted that the top five needs identified through the needs assessment are consistently reflected across multiple initiatives, including community health worker activities and Help Me Grow 211 information and referral data. This alignment reinforces the importance of using data to guide interventions and prioritize resources.</p> <p>As the committee is already focused on housing, members discussed transportation and food security as additional areas of emphasis. The committee acknowledged that while access to healthcare, mental health, and living wage issues are critical, they fall outside the committee’s current scope and purview.</p>
<p>Transportation Access</p>	<p>The committee discussed transportation needs in Delaware, particularly focusing on access to medical appointments for mothers and children using Medicaid benefits. They agreed to set a goal to research and explore transportation gaps for this population, acknowledging the importance of addressing transportation barriers in both urban and rural areas. The discussion highlighted the need for solutions that work for all regions of the state, with Jennifer emphasizing that relying on transportation across the canal is not a viable option for Sussex County residents.</p> <p>The committee discussed exploring transportation gaps for Medicaid-eligible mothers and children, agreeing to focus on both existing structures and client experiences. They decided to measure this goal through pre- and post-surveys, community assessments, PRAMS data, and Healthy Women Healthy Babies provider data. The group acknowledged that exploring these gaps is achievable, with available resources and partners to support their efforts.</p> <p>The team identified several available resources and potential partners, including RAMS, Medicaid data, community health workers, and local transportation systems. They agreed that this goal aligns with Title V needs assessment and DHMIC priorities. While some members expressed concerns about the feasibility of addressing multiple issues simultaneously, including a potential housing pilot implementation and food insecurity, the committee decided to proceed with exploring transportation gaps as their primary focus for the upcoming year.</p> <p>SDoH Committee members developed the following goals for 2026:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Explore and research transportation gaps through Medicaid transportation for mothers/women with children to medical appointments. This research will include structures and client experience</li> <li>2. To explore how NEMT (Medicaid) could accommodate mothers with children.</li> </ol>

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. To explore expanding support to pregnant women through a program like the DSAMH CPSU program or uber.</li> <li>4. To explore issues around buses.</li> <li>5. To explore, research and analyze data to identify gaps in food access for pregnant women in Delaware possibly while focusing on Transportation.</li> </ol>
Food Security	The committee discussed two main goals: transportation and food insecurity. For transportation, they considered exploring gaps in maternal transportation services, including how to accommodate mothers with children and addressing issues with buses not having car seats. For food insecurity, they discussed conducting a gap analysis and developing short-term actions that could be taken in 2026. The committee agreed to start with community organizations and nonprofits to gather information on existing solutions. They also reviewed potential data sources and partners for both goals. The committee will meet virtually in March, June, and September 2026, with specific dates to be confirmed based on members' availability. They agreed to communicate via email between meetings and potentially call an emergency meeting if needed.
<b>ACTION ITEMS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HMA: Develop work plan template with goals and activities for committee review</li> <li>• HMA: Communicate with committee members by email between meetings regarding goal development and work group formation</li> <li>• HMA: Provide update on housing pilot funding status in January</li> <li>• Leah Jones: Look at BRFIS data to see if it captures transportation information for the target population</li> <li>• Leah Jones: Explore what data can be synthesized from PRAMS, Healthy Women Healthy Babies, community health workers contracts, and potential Medicaid data partnership</li> <li>• Emily Haas Katzen: Provide Healthy Women Healthy Babies transportation barrier data for specified patient segments and date ranges when requested.</li> </ul>
Next Steps	<p><b>Next SDoH Committee Meeting:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• March 5, from 10:00am to 11:30am</li> </ul>
Adjournment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meeting adjourned at 10:30am</li> </ul>

These minutes were approved on March 5, 2026