



**DELAWARE HEALTHY INFANT AND MOTHER CONSORTIUM (DHMIC)
MEETING MINUTES
TOWN HALL**

Tuesday, January 13, 2026
Virtual Zoom Meeting
Anchor Site: 1351 W. North Street, Suite 103 Dover, DE 19904

MEMBERS PRESENT:

- Dr. Priscilla Mpasi, Chair
- Tiffany Chalk, Vice-Chair
- Dr. Lindsay Ashkenase
- Dr. Marshala Lee-McCall
- Dr. Julius Mullen
- Bridget Buckaloo
- Ray Fitzgerald
- Representative Kamela Smith
- Representative Valerie Jones Giltner
- Senator Marie Pinkney
- Logan Herring

DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH PRESENT:

- Leah Jones
- Dr. Naa Dede Hesse
- Chelsea Manwiller
- Fern Holland
- George Yocher
- Leslie Palm
- Erika Pickle

MEMBERS ABSENT:

- Dr. Garrett Colmorgen
- Dr. Alethea Miller
- Dr. Agnes Richardson
- Forrest Watson
- Senator Bryant Richardson

Number of public members in attendance: 32. Full sign-in list stored with DPH meeting records.

TOPIC	FINDINGS, CONCLUSIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	STATUS	ACTIONS & FOLLOW-UP
I. Call to Order	Dr. Priscilla Mpasi, Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:35 AM. She welcomed members to the first Quarterly DHMIC meeting of 2026 and explained the decision to hold the meeting virtually due to a change in the presentation schedule.	Dr. Priscilla Mpasi, Chair	Resolved	No further action required.
II. DHMIC Member Introductions	Dr. Mpasi, Chair, facilitated introductions from DHMIC members, including the Vice Chair Tiffany Chalk, current committee co-chairs and general members, newly appointed members, Representatives from various health organizations and DPH team members.			

III. Approval of Minutes	A motion to approve the November minutes was offered, seconded, and approved unanimously.	Dr. Priscilla Mpasi, Chair	Resolved	No further action required.
IV. New Business	<p>Member Nomination Process</p> <p>Dr. Mpasi presented an overview of the DHMIC membership composition, mission, and the updated member nominations and appointment process:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 15 Governor-appointed seats • 8 legislative and agency designees • Three vacancies currently open, two agency designee seats need to be fulfilled <p>Key process details:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Membership/Nominations Committee, convened by the Chair, will review applications and make recommendations to the full DHMIC. • Applications are accepted on a rolling basis via DETHrives.com website with opportunities for self-nomination or colleague nomination. • The updated application captures lived experience, areas of expertise, committee interests, time commitment, and conflict-of-interest disclosures. • Appointed member terms are three years, with staggered terms for continuity. • Members must meet participation expectations, including attendance, voting, and committee service. <p>The presentation emphasized broad outreach, transparency, and increasing diverse representation across the state.</p>	Dr. Priscilla Mpasi, Chair	Resolved	No further action required.
V. Committee Updates	<p>The SDOH Committee reviewed progress on social determinants of health initiatives.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Successful completion of the Guaranteed Basic Income (GBI) pilot and evaluation, which demonstrated positive impacts on family stability and well-being. • Development of a housing pilot focused on pregnant women, with plans to present the proposal to DHSS leadership. • Review of results from the Title V Needs Assessment Stakeholder Survey identified top unmet needs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Housing ○ Access to Healthcare ○ Food Security ○ Mental Health ○ Living Wage <p>Upcoming focus areas include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Transportation Access ○ Food Security ○ Leveraging Medicaid non-emergency transportation resources <p>Questions & Member Discussion- SDOH Maternal Health Access in Sussex County</p> <p>Discussion included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Challenges in Sussex County related to access to 	Ray Fitzgerald, Co-Chair and Dr. Julius Mullen, Co-Chair, SDoH Committee	Resolved	No further action required.

	<p>Questions & Member Discussions</p> <p>Data Sharing</p> <p>Concerns: Sharing prenatal records between FQHCs (Federally Qualified Health Centers) and hospitals, highlighting difficulties with data sharing across different systems.</p> <p>Response: Members acknowledged this concern is beyond the committee’s scope but agreed to elevate and explore potential solutions.</p> <p>The Delaware Perinatal Quality Collaborative (DPQC) shared updates on two grant-funded initiatives, and the success of the peer doula program, which has 23 clients across 5 peers. Recent accomplishments include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing AIM Capacity Grant work to strengthen postpartum care and implementation of the fourth-trimester model, including early postpartum visits and provider education. • A Maternal Health Innovation Grant supporting peer recovery specialists trained as doulas to support pregnant and parenting individuals with substance abuse disorder. • Progress on statewide maternal health strategic plan and maternal health task force. • Pediatric initiatives, including statewide implementation of the Eat, Sleep, Console model and renewed focus on safe sleep efforts. <p>Upcoming focus areas include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to backfill an interim Grant Project Manager position. • Ongoing work to create a provider toolkit and educational sessions for the AIM Capacity Grant. 	<p>Bridget Buckaloo, MSN, RN DPQC Partner Beebe Hospital Representative</p>		
<p>VI. Public Comment</p>	<p>Public comments during the meeting focused on Social Determinants of Health (SDOH), Well Women and Black Maternal Health (WW/BMH), and the Data Committee.</p> <p>All questions, concerns, and discussion points raised during the public comment portion are documented under those sections of these minutes.</p>	<p>Various</p>	<p>Resolved</p>	<p>No further action required.</p>
<p>VII. Updates & Announcements</p>	<p>Chair Dr. Priscilla Mpsasi and Vice Chair Tiffany Chalk offered closing reflections and updates before adjourning the meeting.</p> <p>Annual Summit Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Mpsasi announced the 20th Anniversary DHMIC Summit, scheduled for April 13, 2026, at the Chase Center on the Riverfront. • Summit theme: Learning from the Past. Leading in the Present. Shaping Maternal and Child Health for the Future. • Registration opening in February 2026. • Invitation for members and organizations to contribute to the milestone gallery at 	<p>Dr. Priscilla Mpsasi, Chair & Tiffany Chalk, Vice Chair</p>	<p>Resolved</p>	<p>No further action required.</p>

	<p>dethrives.com/photo and Innovation Stations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invitation for about 2-3 volunteers to help compile, organize, and select the milestones that will be featured at the DHMIC Summit. If you're interested, please complete the form at dethrives.com/milestone. <p>Closing Notes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Mpsi thanked members, agency partners, and community attendees for their continued involvement and thoughtful discussion; and encouraged continued engagement in committee work and upcoming events. 			
VIII. Adjournment	Meeting adjourned at 11:47 AM	Dr. Priscilla Mpsi, Chair	Resolved	No further action required.

Minutes prepared by: Fern Holland

Minutes reviewed by: Leah Jones

Minutes reviewed and submitted by: Priscilla Mpsi, MD, DHMIC Chair

Minutes approved on: May 21st, 2026 during the Q2 in-person meeting

2026 Meetings

All Meetings held at DTCC, Del-One Conference Rm, Dover

Tuesday, January 13, 2026-Virtual Meeting Via Zoom

Thursday, May 21, 2026

Wednesday, September 30, 2026

Wednesday, December 2, 2026