# Social Determinants of Health Committee Meeting

## May 24, 2023

**Attendees:** Nickee Alexander, Mawuna Gardesey, Forrest Watson II, Karen McGloughlin, Garrett Colmorgen, Jennifer Pulcinella, Adriana Viveros, Rep. Minor Brown, Liddy Garcia-Bunuel and Ana Bueno.

Liddy presented the agenda and moved to the first agenda item.

**Approval of Minutes February 28, 2023**: Motion to approve the minutes was moved by Mawuna Gardesey. Seconded by Garret Colmorgen seconded the motion. Minutes were approved.

After introductions Liddy mentioned that today’s meeting will focus on reviewing the 2023 Action plan and goals established during last meeting.

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For the first goal: Continue to implement monitor, evaluate demonstration projects: Liddy reported that under the GBI demonstration program is going well. Dara Dupont doing a great job with the program and she is seeing as a grandmother of the babies. Jennifer Pulcinella asked if there were any efforts to continue with the program. Liddy mentioned that she had a conversation yesterday with Leah Woodall from DPH and they are working on how this could be done. Dr. Garrett Colmorgen asked if the study would be ready by the summer to see if a policy can be added to get a policy on this year’s budget.

Rep Minor Brown indicated that it may not be possible to add it for this year’s budget.

Liddy asked if it was a good idea to introduce the study for a future policy.

Forrest Watson III mentioned he was intrigued by the result presented last time that a participant was able to get to ownership thanks to this program. He asked if there was a possible way to show how this program could improve other factors other than Maternal and child health but Social determinants of health overall.

Rep. Minor Brown suggested for everyone to look at the Governor’s budget for example a big budget line items is on housing. How can some of the work the committee is doing could be under that umbrella.

For Housing Liddy reported that HMA had a quick call with Director Eugene Young, Delaware State Housing Authority to understand what the possible solutions. When HMA mentioned GBI he mentioned participants under GBI could be linked to housing ownership program.

Rep. Minor Brown mentioned the need to get louder as recently she has seen the same program was started in Philadelphia. People need to know including the importance to raise the voice with the Omnibus in DC and let people understand the need in Delaware. Liddy suggested to get a press release with the findings of the GBI.

Action items from the discussion:

* Working with Rep. Minor Brown some legislations studying demonstration project and findings.
* Press release about GBI initiative
* Intentional work with Director Young to be more intentional about home ownership.

Karen McLaughlin, ownership maybe related to education. Access barrier understanding how it works, first time potential homeowners as it is a complicated and feels like a very expensive prospect specially for low-income individuals. Liddy mentioned that Stand By Me coaches work with participants in the GBI. Karen mentioned that she is referring to having more accessible education available more broadly not only for the cohort.

Jennifer Pulcinella Mentioned in the chat that Sussex could really use help for prenatal care and transportation is hard to find in Sussex.

Rep. Minor Brown agreed that people do not know of resources and mentioned that the mental health piece is important. She asked Garrett Colmorgen to have the women together to motivate them and work together.

Mawuna Gardesey indicated education was very important specially if a child is born in a family with needs. He agreed there needs to be education that things can be done.

Forrest Watson III mentioned that the committee could leveraged for example working with Banks that have programs with low income and migrant communities. For example Santander Bank. He suggested to continue working with this group of women to measure outcomes and that can show statistics to drive indexes down not only maternal and child mortality but other outcomes that deal with other health issues like asthma.

Rep. Minor Brown agreed with Forrest Watson III and suggested to work with Deltech and DLL as women can go to school for free to empower women and connect women to get ready for home ownership.

Forrest Watson III suggested for the women under the program to become peer leaders and advertise what the groups is doing with GBI.

Rep Minor brown mentioned that if highlighting Deltech and DLL and put them on Delaware Thrives.

Liddy mentioned that Dara brings the women together for webinars or events together and she could bring the women together to provide opportunities.

Adriana Viveros suggested to have Latinx moms that need the services and going through same issues but have some immigration issues. Suggested to be inclusive. Lt. Governor pilot program for renters TIN number to get credit. She announced June 1, 2023 will be her last day at Christiana Care. She also mentioned CHWs as part of the community and address SDoH barriers and empower clients.

Rep. Minor Brown congratulated her and asked to connect with Adriana about the bill to cover kids that are undocumented. She wants to create a trusting relationship with the women that will receive this benefit. Adriana mentioned she did a personal state for the bill to pass, and she understands firsthand how this impacts her community. Education is important. Undocumented women do not for breast pumps. Delaware Health First.

Liddy mentioned that transportation was another issue the committee wanted to tackle last meeting and wanted to discuss with it is still something the committee should be working on.

Rep. Minor Brown asked if this is referring to transportation in general or for appointments only. Garrett Colmorgen mentioned that transportation is covered by Medicaid.

Forrest Watson III mentioned Transportation is a barrier and is the key for independence. He mentioned that Behavioral health and mental health support is important to

Jennifer Pulcinella mentioned that when she was pregnant, she was staying at a Ronald McDonald house and a church lend her a car and that changed her life as transportation increases work ability, mental capacity and helps in many areas.

Nickee Alexander mentioned that DART has a program that offer transportation to and from work and offers employees free lift or uber drives DART programs offer. She suggested to look at the program and where the services are provided.

Rep. Minor Brown suggested to start a resolution to continue with the press release and ask for help and car donations and more basic needs they need. She mentioned that when she was pregnant there was a program called Me and mine gateway program that had a car. Create a plan and then have other agencies buy into it.

Karen McGloughlin mentioned that sharing of info is a classic example of how there are so many programs throughout Delaware that are available, but a lot of people don't know about them. She suggested asking each Department for a list of services that would help in these areas, Transportation, housing, labor, etc. And then using our influence and connections to share that out to the target population - pre and post-partum women.

Rep. Minor Brown thanked all participants for attending and reminded everyone to join the DHMIC meeting.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:00am