



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

Wednesday, September 24, 2025
In-Person, 10:30am-11:38am

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Tiffany Chalk, Vice-Chair
Dr. Lindsay Ashkenase
Dr. Garrett Colmorgen
Ray Fitzgerald
Dr. Julius Mullen
Representative Kamela Smith
Logan Herring
Representative Valerie Jones Giltner
Dr. Agnes Richardson
Susan Holloway

DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH PRESENT:

Leah Jones
Dr. Naa Dede Hesse
George Yocher
Brit Seidt

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Dr. Priscilla Mpasi, Chair
Forrest Watson
Senator Marie Pinkney
Senator Bryant Richardson
Bridget Buckaloo
Dr. Alethea Miller
Dr. Marshala Lee-McCall

Number of public members in attendance: 24. Full sign-in list stored with DPH meeting records.

TOPIC	FINDINGS, CONCLUSIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	STATUS	ACTIONS & FOLLOW-UP
I. Call to Order	The meeting was called to order at 10:30 AM by Vice Chair, Tiffany Chalk.	Tiffany Chalk, Vice Chair	Resolved	No further action required.
II. Approval of Minutes	Approval of the May minutes was delayed initially due to lack of quorum but later completed once quorum was met. A motion was made and seconded; minutes were approved.	Tiffany Chalk, Vice Chair	Resolved	No further action required.
III. OLD Business	Membership Nominations <ul style="list-style-type: none">A transparent process is being developed for filling governor-appointed vacancies. Drafts will be reviewed by the Executive Committee and brought back to DHMIC in November.Committee membership applications remain open via DEThrives.com for Well Woman, Black Maternal	Tiffany Chalk, Vice Chair & Leah Jones, DPH	Resolved	No further action required.

	<p>Health, Social Determinants of Health, and Data Committees. Interested individuals can participate publicly while applications are under review.</p> <p>Community Partners – Venue for Sharing Initiatives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion focused on how DHMIC can better support organizations. Past examples included Town Halls, Healthy Women Healthy Babies (HWHB) mini-grants, and community-based events. • Feedback encouraged ongoing public partner engagement and exploring new models for information-sharing and collaboration. <p>Public Comment during Old Business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concern raised regarding state and national restrictions on sex education language (DEI, gender identity). Members discussed the importance of continuing to provide comprehensive education despite changing policy climates. 			
IV. 5 year Maternal Health Strategic Plan	<p>Dr. Colmorgen presented the draft strategic plan, emphasizing a focus on pregnant and parenting women with substance use disorder (SUD).</p> <p>Highlights:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic Goals: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Improve access to maternal health services and expand SUD-specific infrastructure. 2. Strengthen streamlined care coordination with standardized protocols and centralized data-sharing. 3. Enhance education and public awareness on maternal health and SUD as a medical and social condition. 4. Expand maternal health workforce training, including peer support doulas and trauma-informed care. 5. Establish clear monitoring/evaluation metrics and a statewide data dashboard. • Findings: 61% of maternal deaths in recent years were linked to SUD. • Partnerships: Medicaid program expansion for doula reimbursement, Impact Life Delaware peer support doula program now accepting patients, integration with multiple state agencies. • Additional Grant: A continuation grant is supporting fourth trimester care, with seven hospitals/birthing centers piloting early postpartum visits. <p>Community Comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suggestions to connect with <i>Mind the Gap</i> and Delaware State University's Trauma Academy. • Recommendation to strengthen Plans of Safe Care in coordination. • Support for ongoing integration with statewide task forces. <p>Plan remains fluid with opportunities to add new elements before finalization in 2026.</p>	Dr. Garrett Colmorgen, DHMIC member, DPQC chair and MCDRC Chair	Resolved	No further action required.

V. Committee Updates	<p>Well Woman and Black Maternal Health</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Life Plan Materials: Reviewing and modernizing preconception materials for broader use beyond schools. • Maternal Health Warning Signs: Implementing materials across hospitals; collaboration with DPQC on aspirin protocols for preeclampsia prevention. • Fourth Trimester Focus: Emphasis on continuity of postpartum care to reduce disparities. • Her Story 2.0 Project: New documentary series to elevate women’s voices around pregnancy, SUD, and mental health. Funding secured through June 2026. <p>Social Determinants of Health</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Designing a housing pilot program for pregnant and postpartum women. • Exploring TANF surplus funding, SRAP (state housing voucher) use, and partnerships with nonprofits. • Emphasis on wraparound services (case management, mental health, ACEs integration). • Draft proposal to be presented to DHMIC and elevated to DHSS for funding. <p>Data Committee Mission: Leverage timely, relevant data to improve maternal and infant health outcomes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Progress since April 2025: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Mapping existing data sources (Vital Statistics, PRAMS, Medicaid MCOs, Healthy Women Healthy Babies, home visiting). ○ Identified key gaps: lack of longitudinal tracking and limited out-of-hospital data. ○ Initial findings: Delaware’s first-trimester prenatal care entry (80%) lags national average (90%). • Next Steps: Build a statewide maternal health data dashboard, expand postpartum data collection, and strengthen coordination with the Maternal Health Task Force. 	<p>Tiffany Chalk and Mona Liza Hamlin, WW/BMH Co-chairs</p> <p>Ray Fitzgerald and Dr. J Mullen, SDoH Co-chairs</p> <p>Dr. Lindsay Ashkenase, Data committee Co-chair</p>	Resolved	No further action required.
VI. Public Comment	<p>Comment raised on inclusion of transmasculine (“seahorse”) parents in maternal/infant health conversations.</p> <p>Delaware State Housing Authority shared outcomes of a partnership linking Cribs for Kids with housing residents, increasing access to safe sleep resources.</p>	Various	Resolved	No further action required.
VII. Updates & Announcements	<p>DHMIC Summit Planning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 20th Annual DHMIC Summit will be held April 13, 2026 at the Chase Center, Wilmington. • Theme development underway; call for proposals sent via email. Summit will highlight 20 years of progress and include interactive, celebratory elements. <p>Committee Member Applications</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reminder: applications open online at DEThrives.com for committee participation. 	Various	Resolved	No further action required.

	Upcoming Community Events <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health Fair: Dover Library, Saturday, September 27, 2025 (with Delaware Breast Cancer Coalition). • Community Resource Fair: Georgetown, September 30, 2025 (First State Community Action Agency, Delmarva Power, Energize DE, DNREC). • Menopause Walk: October 19, 2025, with the Pretty Moody Foundation. • American Heart Association Stroke Summit: December 5, 2025, Hyatt Dewey Beach. 			
VIII. Adjournment	Meeting adjourned at 11:38am.	Tiffany Chalk, Vice Chair	Resolved	No further action required.

Minutes prepared by: Brit Seidt

Minutes reviewed by: Leah Jones

Minutes reviewed and submitted by Vice Chair: Tiffany Chalk

Minutes approved by: DHMIC Appointed members on November 18, 2025

2025 Meetings

All Meetings held at DTCC, DeOne Conference Rm, Dover

Tuesday November 18, 2025, 10:30am-12:00pm