



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

Thursday, May 21, 2026
Del-Tech Terry Campus, Del-One Conference Center
100 Campus Drive, Dover, DE 19901

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Dr. Priscilla Mpasi, Chair
Dr. Garrett Colmorgen
Dr. Lindsay Ashkenase
Dr. Alethea Miller
Bridget Buckaloo
Representative Kamela Smith
Logan Herring

DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH PRESENT:

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

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Tiffany Chalk, Vice-Chair
Dr. Julius Mullen
Dr. Marshala Lee-McCall
Forrest Watson
Senator Bryant Richardson
Representative Valerie Jones Giltner
Senator Marie Pinkney
Ray Fitzgerald
Dr. Agnes Richardson (retired)

DRAFT

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 10:45 AM.	Dr. Priscilla Mpasi, Chair	Resolved	No further action required.
II. DHMIC Member Introductions	Dr. Mpasi, Chair, facilitated introductions from DHMIC members, 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 January minutes was offered, seconded, and approved unanimously.	Dr. Priscilla Mpasi, Chair	Resolved	No further action required.

IV. Chair Report	20th Anniversary Summit – Report Out Dr. Mpasi and members of the Summit Planning Committee provided a review of the 20th Annual DHMIC Summit held on April 13, 2026: • Attendance exceeded 300 participants from across Delaware and neighboring states. • 25 presenters delivered educational sessions and facilitated discussions. • 20 Innovation Stations showcased programs, initiatives, research, resources, and community—based services supporting maternal and infant health. • Representation included healthcare providers, hospitals, advocacy organizations, legislators, and public health professionals. Media Impact • 28 Media placements. • Coverage by 6 news outlets. • Approximately 1.9 million media impressions statewide. Participation Evaluation Feedback • 94% rated the summit as good or excellent. • 84% reported gaining knowledge and skills applicable to their work. • 91% reported adequate opportunities for networking and discussion. The DHMIC expressed appreciation to the Summit Planning Committee, presenters, sponsors, volunteers, and attendees for contributing to the success of the 20th Annual DHMIC Summit. Feedback collected from evaluations and discussion will be used to guide planning efforts for the 2027 DHMIC Summit and future DHMIC events. DHMIC Member Appointments- Status Report DHMIC currently has vacancies among its Governor-appointed membership positions. The importance of maintaining a diverse membership reflects the communities served across Delaware and brings expertise from multiple sectors impacting maternal and infant health. • Applications and nominations are accepted on a rolling basis through the DE Thrives website. • Individuals may self-nominate or be nominated by another person or organization. • Applicants complete a standardized application that captures professional experience. • The revised process was developed to improve transparency, consistency, and accessibility. The Consortium discussed the importance of broad outreach to ensure diverse representation across geographic regions, racial and ethnic groups, professional sectors, and community perspectives. Membership Committee Review Process	Dr. Priscilla Mpasi, Chair	Resolved	No further action required.
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	• Assessment of applicant qualifications and alignment with DHMIC priorities. • Consideration of expertise, community involvement, and ability to contribute to committee work. • Membership recommendations are reviewed by the Membership Committee and forwarded through DPH to the Governor's Office for consideration. • Appointed member terms are three years and may be renewed. • Eligibility for re-appointment following completion of a term. • Staggered appointment cycles to ensure continuity of leadership and institutional knowledge. Suggestions to increase awareness of membership opportunities and recruitment efforts included: • Promoting vacancies through partner organizations and professional associations. • Utilizing social media and DHMIC communication channels. • Encouraging current members to recruit individuals with lived experience and community connections. • Expanding outreach to underrepresented communities and sectors. • Leveraging committee networks to identify prospective applicants. Member Expectations and Responsibilities • Attend quarterly DHMIC meetings. • Participate in at least one standing committee. • Contribute expertise and recommendations to support maternal and infant health initiatives. • Support outreach, education, and collaborative efforts across Delaware. Committee Participation Members were encouraged to participate in: • Well Women and Black Maternal Health Committee • Social Determinants of Health Committee • Data Committee • Summit Planning Committee Committee applications remain open year-round through the DE Thrives website.			
V. Community Health Initiative Spotlight	Sharing Circles for Black Birthing Patients – <i>Erin Ridout, MSW, MPH, and Tylisha Johnson</i> The presenters shared findings from ChristianaCare's Sharing Circles Initiative, a qualitative research project designed to understand Black birthing patients' experiences and identify opportunities for improving maternal care. The initiative sought to: • Center Black birthing patients' voices as measures of safety and quality. • Understand patient experiences beyond traditional outcome metrics. • Create safe spaces for participants to discuss	Erin Ridout Tylisha Johnson		No further action required.

	experiences with pregnancy, labor, delivery, and postpartum care. The project included: • 8 community-based sharing circles • 28 individual interviews • 50 total Black birthing participants • Partnerships with community organizations throughout Delaware. The initiative recommended: • Incorporating patient narratives into quality improvement efforts. • Standardizing induction scheduling and communication processes. • Strengthening breastfeeding support systems. • Improving communication between providers and patients. • Reviewing informed consent procedures. • Enhancing partner engagement throughout the birthing experience. Progress Since Completion- Presenters Reported: • Findings have been shared with leadership, caregivers, residents, and nursing staff. • Creation of a Birthing Patient Advisory Council to help implement recommendations. • Launch of an ongoing Severe Maternal Morbidity (SMM) patient interview process to gather qualitative feedback following serious maternal health event.			
VI. Committee Updates, Co- Chairs	Well Women and Black Maternal Health Dr. Mpasi provided updates on behalf of Committee Co-chairs Tiffany Chalk and Mona Liza Hamlin. HerStory 2.0 Initiative The next phase of the HerStory project, which will feature educational and lived-experience video narratives covering: • Maternal health data and systems change. • Community-lived experiences. • Care coordination. • Perinatal mental health. • Father and partner engagement. • Fourth-trimester and postpartum care. • Maternal health warning signs and patient self-advocacy. • Community resources available to pregnant and postpartum individuals. Production and Implementation Timeline: Activities completed or in progress include: • Identification of topic areas and featured speakers. • Development of educational content and messaging.	Various Members	Resolved	No further action required.

	• Coordination of participant interviews and recordings. • Planning for dissemination through digital platforms and community partners. • Recording of the video series is scheduled for completion by June 2026, with public release planned thereafter. Black Maternal Health Awareness Efforts The Committee highlighted its participation in activities during Black Maternal Health Week, including partnerships with community organizations, advocacy groups, healthcare systems, and state agencies. These activities focused on: • Raising awareness of maternal health disparities. • Promoting community engagement. • Highlighting resources available to women and families. • Encouraging dialogue around solutions to improve maternal health outcomes. Black Maternal Health Week Activities Numerous statewide activities held during Black Maternal Health Week (April 11 – 17, 2026), to include: • Participation in the Delta Sigma Theta Delaware Chapter’s annual Black Maternal Health disparities event focused on preconception and well-woman health. • Community engagement activities hosted by Black and Indigenous Birth Workers of Delaware and Black Indigenous Midwives International. • Legislative recognition of Black Maternal Health Week through resolutions sponsored by Representative Kamela Smith and Senator Marie Pinkney. • Participation of DHMIC members in events in Legislative Hall promoting maternal and infant health awareness. Data Committee Prenatal Care Data Matrix The committee reported completion of the prenatal care data matrix and has begun development of postpartum care data infrastructure. Public-Facing Data Dashboard Adjustments to plans for a public-facing maternal health dashboard. Due to funding limitations, the committee will pursue: • Public-facing maternal health data infographics. • Periodic updates to key maternal and infant health indicators. • Publication through DHMIC communication channels and the DE Thrives website. DTRN360 Partnership A significant development involved collaboration with DSAHM’s DTRN360 platform. The committee will begin receiving referral			
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	data related to pregnant women, including information relevant to: • Substance use disorders. • Behavioral health services. • Maternal care coordination needs.			
VII. Updates & Announcements	DHMIC 20-Year Impact Report Dr. David Paul announced development of a report documenting DHMIC's 20 years of accomplishments, programs, outcomes, and lessons learned. Completion is anticipated in Fall 2026. Say Her Name 5K and Family Fun Day Latoya Bradley announced the Third Annual Say Her Name 5K and Family Fun Day, scheduled for May 31, 2026. PRAMS for Dads Initiative Leah Jones announced exploration of Delaware's participation in PRAMS for Dads, a national initiative focused on paternal involvement and its impact on maternal and infant outcomes. Highlights included: • Delaware would join approximately nine participating states. • Partnership with Family and Child Health Innovations Programs. • Collaboration with Dr. Craig Garfield, founder of PRAMS for Dads. • Collection of data regarding father's experiences, behaviors, and influence on maternal and child health outcomes.	Various	Resolved	No further action required.
VIII. Adjournment	Meeting adjourned at 12:28 PM.	Dr. Priscilla Mpasi, Chair	Resolved	No further action required.

Minutes prepared by: Fern Holland

Minutes reviewed by:

Minutes reviewed and submitted by: Dr. Priscilla Mpasi, DHMIC Chair

Minutes approved by: Pending next quarterly 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