



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

Wednesday, January 29, 2025  
In-Person, 10:43am-12:03pm

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

- Dr. Priscilla Mpsasi, Chair
- Tiffany Chalk, Vice-Chair
- Dr. Lindsay Ashkenase
- Dr. Garrett Colmorgen
- Forrest Watson
- Ray Fitzgerald
- Dr. Julius Mullen

**DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH PRESENT:**

- Leah Jones
- Mawuna Gardesey
- Michelle Mathew
- Dr. Naa Dede Hesse
- Dr. Katie Labgold
- George Yocher
- Lisl Phelps
- Shebra Hall
- Helen Arthur
- Sequoia Rent
- Brit Seidt

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

- Representative Melissa Minor-Brown
- Senator Marie Pinkney
- Dr. Agnes Richardson
- Senator Bryant Richardson
- Bridget Buckaloo
- Representative Valerie Jones Giltner
- Logan Herring
- Dr. Marshala Lee-McCall
- Dr. Alethea Miller
- Dr. Olubusola Ogunlade

*Number of public members in attendance: 33. 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 by Dr. Priscilla Mpsasi, Chair, at 10:43am.  <b>Noted absences:</b> Some elected officials and members had prior commitments. <b>Quorum Status:</b> No quorum present; all votes will be conducted electronically. <b>Special recognition</b> was given to Mawuna Gardesey for his long service in maternal and child health, highlighting his significant contributions to the field.	Dr. Priscilla Mpsasi, Chair	Resolved	No further action required.
II. Approval of	The consent agenda vote, including the minutes of the September 10, 2024, was deferred due to lack of quorum.	Dr. Priscilla Mpsasi, Chair	Deferred	Electronic Vote

Minutes				
III. Introduction of New DPH Staff	<p>Brit Seidt – Administrative support for DHMIC and DPQC, bringing expertise in public health and data science.</p> <p>Dr. Katie Labgold, PhD. – Maternal &amp; Child Health Epidemiologist, who will focus on enhancing data-driven strategies in maternal health.</p> <p>Dr. Dede Hesse, PhD. – Epidemiologist, who will assist with research and public health initiatives.</p>	Leah Jones, et al.	Resolved	No further action required.
IV. Chair Updates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Overview of DHMIC structure and meeting schedule:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Quarterly meetings will be held in January, May, September, and November.</li> <li>○ Public meetings remain open to community participation.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Committee Meeting Updates:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Committees will now meet between quarterly meetings to ensure more consistent engagement and progress on initiatives.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Membership Updates:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Some DHMIC seats are vacant due to transitions, and efforts are underway to recruit new members.</li> <li>○ A transparent appointment process will be launched, and a membership committee will oversee the selection process.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Annual Summit:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The <b>19th Annual DHMIC Summit</b> will be held on <b>April 14, 2025</b>.</li> <li>○ Keynote speakers include <b>Dr. Janet Curry</b> from Princeton University and <b>Dr. Nadine Burke Harris</b>, founder of the Center for Youth Wellness.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Community Engagement:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The <b>Community Vendor Form</b> will close on <b>January 31, 2025</b>, but will reopen later in the year to allow additional organizations to participate.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Dr. Priscilla Mpasu, Chair	Resolved	Action item pending.
V. Committee Updates	<p><b>Well-Woman &amp; Black Maternal Health Committee</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Priorities for 2025:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Life Plans</b> – Empowering women to plan for their maternal and reproductive health.</li> <li>○ <b>Maternal Health Warning Signs</b> – Raising awareness about early indicators of maternal complications.</li> <li>○ <b>Preeclampsia Awareness</b> – Educating communities about this potentially life-threatening condition.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Next meeting:</b> April 30, 2025, at 11:00 AM (via Zoom).</li> </ul> <p><b>Doula Ad Hoc Committee</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The committee received the draft 2024 Doula Ad Hoc</li> </ul>	<p>Tiffany Chalk and Mona Liza Hamlin, Co-Chairs</p> <p>Dr. Mpasu, Chair</p>	Resolved	Action item pending.
			Resolved	No further action

	<p>Summary Memo in November 2024 and members were asked to provide feedback. The Committee met on January 13, 2025 to review the updated Summary Memo and after member discussion voted to approve the Summary Memo. The committee also approved the decision by DHMIC leadership to officially sunset the ad hoc committee, pending DHMIC approval.</p> <p><b>Social Determinants of Health (SDOH) Committee</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reviewed the <b>Guaranteed Basic Income (GBI) Pilot</b> and <b>HB Mini Grant Program</b>, both aimed at addressing economic instability.</li> <li>Established a <b>New Housing Work Group</b> to focus on housing solutions for maternal and infant health.</li> <li><b>Next Steps:</b> Implementing housing recommendations, pending DHMIC approval.</li> </ul> <p><b>Action Items</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Approve HWHB 3.0 Final Evaluation Report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Evaluation Report 1) Evaluates the overall reach and impact of the Mini-Grant Initiative for community-based organizations and 2) Highlights the implementation and outcomes of a place-based initiative, the Guaranteed Basic Income demonstration project.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Approve the 2024 Doula Ad Hoc Summary Memo</li> <li>Approve to sunset the Doula Ad Hoc Committee</li> </ol>	<p>Ray Fitzgerald, SDOH Co-Chair</p> <p>Dr. Mpsi, Chair</p>	<p>Resolved</p> <p>Deferred</p>	<p>pending.</p> <p>No further action required.</p> <p>Electronic Vote.</p>
<p>VI. Presentations</p>	<p><b>Committee Presentation: SDOH Housing Workgroup</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Housing Work Group Recommendations:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Prioritizing pregnant and postpartum women</b> for housing assistance.</li> <li>Advocating for <b>TANF surplus funds</b> (\$5M requested) to support housing initiatives.</li> <li>Expanding <b>rent-to-own programs</b> and <b>reducing zoning barriers</b> to increase affordable housing.</li> </ul> </li> <li><b>Next Steps:</b> Advocate for prioritization of pregnant women in housing programs.</li> </ul> <p><b>Organization Presentation: Maternal &amp; Child Death Review Commission (MCDRC) 2023 Annual Report</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>120 cases reviewed in 2023</b>, including <b>infant mortality, unsafe sleep deaths, and maternal mortality.</b></li> <li><b>Key Findings:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 in 3 mothers had <b>late or no prenatal care.</b></li> <li><b>Substance Use Disorder (SUD) &amp; overdose</b> remain major contributors to maternal deaths.</li> <li><b>Need for better care coordination &amp; navigation services.</b></li> </ul> </li> <li><b>Recommendations:</b></li> </ul>	<p>Ray Fitzgerald, SDOH Co-Chair</p> <p>Dr. Meena Ramakrishnan</p>	<p>Resolved</p> <p>Resolved</p>	<p>No further action required.</p> <p>No further action required.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Expand <b>team-based, coordinated care</b>.</li> <li>○ Increase <b>perinatal mental health resources</b>.</li> <li>○ Improve <b>communication &amp; follow-up</b> for abnormal lab results.</li> </ul> <p><b>Action Item</b>  <b>1.</b> Approve the SDOH Housing Recommendations</p>	Dr. Mpsi, Chair	Deferred	Electronic Vote
VII. 2025 Summit Planning Updates	Keynote speakers and event logistics were discussed, including session topics, panel structures, and engagement strategies to maximize participation. Plans for securing additional speakers and finalizing the event schedule were also outlined.	Tiffany Chalk, DHMIC Vice Chair	Resolved	No further action required.
VIII. Announce- ments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>"Say Her Name" Maternal Mortality Awareness 5K &amp; Health Fair</b> – April 12, 2025, at Glasgow Park.</li> <li>• <b>Raising Kings Conference</b> – February 20, 2025, at the Wilmington Powell Center.</li> <li>• <b>Street Law Session</b> – February 25, 2025, a youth-focused legal rights workshop.</li> </ul>	Various	Resolved	No further action required.
VIII. Adjournment	Meeting adjourned at 12:03pm.	Dr. Mpsi, Chair	Resolved	No further action required.

**Minutes prepared by: Brit Seidt**

**Minutes reviewed by: Leah Woodall**

**Minutes respectfully submitted by:**

**Minutes reviewed and approved by CHAIR: Priscilla Mpsi, M.D., FAAP**

### **2025 Meetings**

*All Meetings held at DTCC, DelOne Conference Rm, Dover*

Thursday May 15, 2025, 10:30am-12:00pm

Wednesday September 24, 2025, 10:30am-12:00pm

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