DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
OFFICE OF AFRICAN AMERICAN HEALTH

AAHSAC Meeting Minutes: August 5, 2026

MINUTES PREPARED BY: OAAH
LOCATION: VIRTUAL

Attendance

- Aisha Ellis, MDH
- Amy Cyr, The Improve Group
- Carol Houston, AAHSAC
- Chris Smith, AAHSAC
- Deebaa Sirdar, MDH
- Gage Urvina, AAHSAC
- Heather Rippel, MDH
- Iman Ibrahim, AAHSAC
- Inih Essien, AAHSAC
- Matthew Arries, AAHSAC
- Pamela Russell-Warder, AAHSAC
- Seena Hodges, MDH facilitator
- Spotless Amponsah, The Improve Group
- Stephanie Trusten, MDH

Decisions made

- July meeting minutes approved

Action items

- Sub-Committees will report meeting cadence dates and priorities for advancing work deliverables plan to facilitator and Council liaison.
- Council liaison will send updated Work Plan and post on SharePoint.

Agenda

- 2:00pm – Opening and Approval of July Meeting Minutes
- 2:05pm – OAAH Director Update

- 2:20pm – Presentation: Paths to Black Health Evaluation Emerging Findings
- 3:20pm – Break
- 3:25pm – Work Plan Update
- 3:50pm – Closing & Next Steps

Next meeting

Date: September 3, 2026

Time: 2:00 - 4:00 PM

Location: Webex

Agenda items: To be announced

Meeting notes

The Council received an update from the director of OAAH and welcomed Deebaa Sirdar as the new OAAH Policy & Systems Manager. The Council also welcomed the two new AAHSAC members, Frederick O Bw'Ombongi and Pamela Russell-Warder. The Improve Group presented to the Council on the Paths to Black Health Evaluation Emerging Findings now that they're closing their time with MDH. The Council learned about the co-creation of the Community Vibrancy and Social Determinants of Health (SDOH) framework along with future resource mapping. The council liaison presented the updated Work Plan and timeline.

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