



## Maternal and Child Health Advisory Task Force Meeting Summary Friday, December 13, 2024

### Members Present

Andrea Lawson  
Brittany Becker  
Candi Seil  
Carolyn Allshouse  
Eugene Nichols  
Lindsey Wimmer  
Marie Malinowski  
Meredith O'Brien  
Michelle O'Brien  
Nicole Fernandez  
Rachel Gilbertson  
Sadie Swenson  
Sameera Bilal-Roby  
Stephanie de Sam Lazaro  
Tamiko Ralston  
Tricia Brisbine

### Members Absent

Elizabeth Pihlaja  
Joi Elmore  
Rachael Joseph  
Stephanie Graves  
Vanessa Bembridge

### MDH Staff

Noya Woodrich  
Nicole Brown  
Judy Plante  
Alison Moore  
Judy Edwards  
Elizabeth Taylor-Schiro  
Mariah Geiger-Williams  
Anne Walaszek  
Kara Skahen  
Gabby Major  
Amy Stauter

### Guests

Aliza Bach  
Lindsay Nelson

### Welcome, Introductions, and Chair Remarks

Sameerah Bilal-Roby, Task Force member and chairperson, welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order. Task Force Members and guests made introductions. Sameerah talked about the current member vacancies. A motion was made and seconded to approve the October 25 meeting minutes.

### Member News

Laterna Consultant Judy Plante led a time of member news and updates. Candi Seil shared about the MN Association of Children's Mental Health conference in November, with 700 attendees. Lindsey Wimmer shared about Star Legacy hosting the Summit for Perinatal Excellence in June 2025.

### Task Force Chair Nominations

Chairperson Sameerah Bilal-Roby led a time of nominations for the open position of Task Force chairperson. Joi Elmore was nominated via email. Nicole Fernandez was nominated by Tamiko Ralston. Nicole Fernandez will defer to the choice of Joi Elmore to accept or decline the nomination. Sameerah Bilal-Roby suggested that Joi Elmore and Nicole Fernandez share the role and act as co-chairs. The matter will be tabled until Joi Elmore is notified and accepts the nomination.

## Subcommittee Updates

Rachel Gilbertson updated about the Family Home Visiting Subcommittee, on behalf of Jennie Lippert and Elizabeth Pihlaja, met on 11/27, with 12 participants. As a subcommittee, they are discussing upcoming FHV progress monitoring reports and MDH data overviews, program updates, and 2025 strategic planning. Also discussed having a MDH-led marketing initiative for Family Home Visiting across Minnesota. Next meeting is 2/26/25.

Michelle O'Brien updated about the Perinatal Subcommittee draft strategic plan. It was sent out for community feedback at the end of October via survey, open until the end of December 2024. The committee has been planning around community action items. They have cultivated a one-page recruitment document and other pertinent initiatives/topics to collaborate. The survey data will be analyzed in January and a summary will be created. Spring 2025 will hold multiple listening sessions; more information to come. Summer 2025 will see the Community Team Actions implementation.

Kara Skahen updated about the Infant and Early Childhood Subcommittee. Mary Ottman is retiring from MDH and Kara Skahen will be taking over for Mary. The next meeting is on January 22, 2025, with 12 members attending. Still in the growing stages, trying to figure out who they are as a subcommittee, reviewing their work and purpose.

Nicole Brown updated about the Children and Youth with Special Health Needs Subcommittee. They met last on November 2, 2024, and went through a subcommittee orientation with the MCH Children and Youth with Special Health Needs section in September. In October, they discussed Title V strategies with the subcommittee steering team. Currently discussing program materials and family engagement and upcoming priorities, including expanding subcommittee and recruiting more members.

Mariah Geiger-Williams updated about the Child and Adolescent Subcommittee, which last met on December 12, 2024. The subcommittee is now focusing on expanding by six to eight members. A nomination period was held in mid/late November and early December and were reviewed at the latest meeting. The next meeting will be in late January. Gene Nichols added that the nomination process sought to represent all areas of the state.

## Title V

Elizabeth Taylor-Schiro shared an update about Title V; all of the subcommittees met with Title V to give input on draft strategies and are moving forward into the public input stage in a survey. Community and CFH listening sessions will be held within the new year for additional input and strategic priorities.

## CFH Update

Noya Woodrich gave the CFH update. The State of MN, CFH, and other agencies received the Preschool Development Grant once again. Isabella Roland will join CFH in January to head up the Preschool Development Grant for the Department of Health. Assistant Commissioner Maria Sarabia announced her departure from MDH to join Ramsey County as Chief of Staff. Assistant Division Director Kathy Wick is retiring in February 2025 and her role will be filled by Meredith O'Brien, starting December 16, 2024.

CFH's Healthy Beginnings, Healthy Families package is in legislation; waiting to see if it's part of the Governor's upcoming budget. The legislative session begins in January 2025.

### Adjournment

Chairperson Sameerah Bilal-Roby reminded the Task Force that the meetings in 2025 will be held quarterly, on March 14, June 13, October 10, and December 12. Judy Edwards reminded members to check the chat for the Perinatal Subcommittee links. Sameerah Bilal-Roby wished everyone a safe 2025 and signed off. The meeting ended.