

Social Determinants of Health Committee Meeting

July 14, 2021

Attendees: Karen McGloughlin (Office of Women's Health, Bureau of Health Equity, Division of Public Health), Crystal Alfriend (Quality Insights), Maria Garda Shroyer (Delaware WIC Program), Forrest Watson III (The Life Health Center), Davon Manning (Delaware State Housing Authority), Leah Woodall (DPH), Dara Hall (DMMA), Rep. Melissa Minor-Brown, Mawuna Gardesey (DPH), John Holden (United Methodist Church).

Approval of Minutes February 5, 2021: John Holden moved a motion, Karen McGloughlin seconded the motion. Minutes were approved.

Review draft charter

Purpose, Structure and Guiding Principles

Rep. Minor Brown presented the draft purpose structure and guiding principles as drafted by HMA. No feedback was received from members on this section of the draft charter during meeting. This section of the charter was approved.

Responsibilities: John Holden suggested to broaden number 4 and add more including pollution. Comprehensively enough traffic, policing issues and mentioned it was important to include all issues that contribute to the impact maternal infant health.

Karen McGloughlin suggested to add for example the need of Wi-Fi accessibility.

Mawuna Gardesey suggested added language on Advocacy advocate and support innovation on first bullet.

Forrest Watson suggested to add violence, poverty and cross section of violence and poverty and segregation and how this impacts mothers. Another issue that he felt it was important to address was Housing. Evictions were waived during COVID, vaccination rates and testing.

Rep. Minor-Brown mentioned that other committees may be focusing on women's health. Leah Woodall added that the well woman committee focuses on well woman care.

Dara Hall suggested to add safety of women, intimate partner violence and social support especially in regard to advocacy.

Leah also clarified that the draft charters will be reviewed and compared to make sure responsibilities do not duplicate between committees.

Priorities: Rep. Minor-Brown presented the priorities and reminded the committee on how the group developed the priorities when the work started in 2019.

Forrest Watson suggested to make sure there is a family focus and include fathers as they are part of the family nucleus and state clearly that the effort is to build a two-parent household particularly around fatherhood.

Karen added that she believes data would show that postpartum depression increases when the father is incarcerated.

Rep. Minor Brown shared the following link of a study that focused on incarceration affecting the family with committee members:

<https://www.justicestrategies.org/coip/blog/2015/02/washington-s-parenting-sentencing-alternative-strengths-based-approach-supervision>

Forrest Watson mentioned that it was important to look at cost of incarceration and the effects of it on hospitalizations or premature births. He agreed with health in all policies and the importance on looking how policies may affect childbirth.

John Holden suggested to focus on cost reduction to make sure projects are feasible.

Goals and Timeline: No feedback was given on Goals and Timeline presented by Rep. Minor Brown.

Membership: Karen McGloughlin suggested to add two missing groups:

- disability groups,
- Mental Health and Behavioral Health.

Under Essential Knowledge Skills and Abilities Leah Woodall suggested to add personal experience or interest in SDoH and its impact on maternal health and improving birth outcomes in addition to issues associated with maternal health and mortality.

Membership Process: John Holden expressed concern about the way the process is described. Leah clarified that the verbiage was used to gather contact information to communicate with members and to align with priorities of the DHMIC.

Meeting schedule: No feedback

Housing Advisory Workgroup Report

Rep. Minor Brown did a Recap of what happened with the Housing Pilot program since last meeting

- On February 5, 2021, the SDoH Workgroup agreed to form a Housing Advisory workgroup to explore the feasibility of the pilot or program.
- The Housing Advisory Workgroup was formed and HMA was hired to conduct an environmental scan or analysis of the program.
- HMA conducted the analysis and presented it to DPH and Housing Advisory Workgroup leadership at the end of June.
- Report is being reviewed and will be shared with the SDoH Workgroup.

Some interesting Information on the Housing Analysis report:

- To engage women with lived experience, HMA held 3 focus groups with 10 women of childbearing age, who are or who have been housing insecure in Delaware. Women were recruited through partnership with two organizations in the state.

- Focus group participants were asked their experiences living in Delaware without stable housing, the obstacles, and barriers they face, and information regarding the resources they could benefit from as they look for permanent housing.
- Across all three focus groups, participants expressed immense difficulty in their attempt to find stable and permanent housing in their communities.

During the focus groups women expressed that the ideal housing program would include the following:

- The ideal program would be welcoming, have a great intake process, and ensure that key resources are accessible in the same facility (laundry, childcare, etc.).
- Program would be a community where single-mother residents could receive social supports
- Access to transportation options; skill building workshops; support with job readiness, job searches and resume writing
- Ideal program would offer financial counseling as well as financial assistance to help moms pay bills, have money for security deposits, learning how to write checks, etc.
- Program that connects moms to resources from the beginning. Resources should be made available to moms when they first start the program; important to ensure the mothers receive assistance to get back on their feet
- Case managers to check-in on them and help with connections to resources, check on their mental health status, checking if they need healthcare services, and checking-in on what their general needs are and which programs they need help with (WIC, food stamps, getting a job, etc.).
- Participants understood the idea behind having a structured program (to teach responsibility), however, they do not want to be treated like children and must be able to “learn on their own”.
- Transparency around how the mother’s funds are being used (food stamps, WIC, money from paychecks, etc.)
- Opportunity for their voices to be heard during program implementation (focus groups, advisory boards, etc.)

Mawuna Gardesey mentioned that the report is detailed and HMA did amazing work.

Rep. Minor Brown mentioned that there were some considerations the group is looking at such as the cost of the program as costs are too high for the few women it would serve. Also, the need to look at alternatives to support housing insecure pregnant mothers. She indicated that the Housing Advisory workgroup will review the report presented by HMA and look at the alternatives to support housing insecure pregnant mothers and will create recommendations and report to the SDoH Committee.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:10pm.