 ***DELAWARE HEALTH* AND SOCIAL SERVICES**



**Division of Public Health**

# Black Maternal Health Workgroup

**Meeting Minutes**

**Date: March 8, 2022**

**Speaker: Tiffany Chalk**

**Recorder: Vonnetta Graves-Brooks**

**Location: Zoom**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Tiffany Chalk, Leah Woodall, Mawuna Gardesey, Susan Noyes, Jada Washington, Lisa Klein, Cynthia Guy, Ida Lewis, Toni Sinibaldi, Leora Sansone

**Welcome and Introductions –** Meetingwas called to order by Tiffany Chalk at 1:04 pm.

All minutes will be posted at the following link [Meeting Information & Materials | Delaware Healthy Mother and Infant Consortium - Delaware Thrives (dethrives.com)](https://dethrives.com/dhmic/dhmic-meeting-materials)

## Starting from March 8th, 2022, going forward, meeting minutes will be posted on DEThrives.com under the DHMIC tab.

## Planning Committee: Tiffany Chalk, Leah Woodall, Susan Noyes, and Toni Sinibaldi, can be contacted with questions.

## Black Maternal Health Awareness Week Planning, April 11th-17th, 2022

## Tiffany Chalk- No changes to charter draft

## Tiffany Chalk-Clean up Black Maternal Health Workgroup distribution list before next month (Continuously update distribution list).

## Tiffany Chalk-advised to keep Black Maternal Health Awareness Week at the forefront of the agenda. Focusing on not duplicating efforts.

## Be consistent with the message and the theme we are sharing throughout the state

## Show we are collaborating and cooperating with each other and not working in silos

## DHMIC is always there to support and uplift regardless of the organization

## Tiffany shared from the DHMIC perspective; they are looking to host a webinar. Dr. Marshala Lee, State Representative Melissa Minor-Brown and Tiffany Chalk came to a consensus that the webinar would be a continuous conversation to HERstory, focusing on allowing women on their maternal journey to elevate their voices through intimate conversations.

## The week of February 28, 2022, Tiffany had a preliminary meeting with Ivan Thomas, owner of DE TV. State Representative Melissa Minor-Brown suggested the webinar be recorded at Ivan’s studio, broadcasting it out to his network, broadening the DHMIC’s reach and awareness. The possible collaboration is in the preliminary stages. A follow up discussion meeting was scheduled for March 11, 2022. After the meeting further information will be sent out via email.

## Leah Woodall- DPH would need details on webinar, and any local events to inform ABC-tactics for outreach and awareness.

## Additional Related Events

## Tiffany Chalk- Hashtags from BMMA’s social media tool kit were reviewed. Tiffany advised we want to align our local hashtags with the national hashtags and incorporate twitter chats for our social media efforts as well. We want to share BMMA’s hashtag information with ABC. It would be good to share BMMA social media tool kit information on DEThrives webpage regarding other events happening that week, for others who may want to join the conversation. Tiffany advised she can share social media information with ABC.

## Tiffany Chalk- Noted that the maternal mental health topic aligns with the emotional and mental health awareness which Black Maternal Health Workgroup is trying to bring to light.

## Tiffany Chalk- Had a conversation with Shane’ Darby from Black Mothers In Power. They have a separate group who scheduled a meeting on Friday, March 11, 2022, to discuss under Dr. Michelle Drew, Ubuntu Collective. Dr. Drew and the Black and indigenous birth workers will be hosting an event. An organization which Doula, Erica Allen is with are looking to host an event as well, (the name of the organization was not available). BMIP had a call scheduled on Friday, March 11, 2022. Shane’ will update Tiffany once they formalize the two or three events they would like to do.

## Tiffany Chalk- Requested BMIP circle back with information regarding what they are doing and what are their topics. Focusing on Black Maternal Health Awareness. Same page, same messaging, same theme. Consistent messaging making a broader impact.

## Tiffany Chalk- Advised she is unaware if Christiana Care has any events planned. Tiffany and DPH bureau chief, Mawuna were planning to connect. Tiffany hoped to talk to her Christiana Care contact the week of March 14, 2022.

## Leah Woodall- Advised regarding the Momnibus Act, no update or draft has been received to date. To her knowledge, the Delaware Momnibus Act will be proposing some elements that are fairly similar to the national Momnibus Act. State Representative Melissa Minor-Brown was not present to give input.

## Maternal Health Warning Signs

* **Lisa Z**. **Klein**- **MMR (Maternal Mortality Review) Program Coordinator**-shared a 11 X14 poster and a flyer with simplified infographics and language. Lisa will try to have the document translated into multiple languages. Two surveys have been created, one for the public and one for professionals. Lisa asked for suggestions on anything that might need to be added.
* **Susan Noyes-** Commended Lisa on collaborating with other organizations. Susan mentioned doing a printout of the flyer and surveys to share with BMHWGP partners. Susan inquired about possibly collaborating with HWHB mini grantees, to make the initiative more grassroots. Susan advised the group has traditionally had more connections with grassroots.
* **Lisa** **Klein**- Advised surveys can be printed out. She would have to change the format.

## Lisa Z. Klein- shared BMMA’s social media tool kit infographic. Lisa suggested the social media tool kit might help coalesce a theme. The theme is “Building for Liberation Centering Black Mamas, Black Families & Black Systems of Care”.

* **Lisa Klein**- Advised once the content is approved she could get the flyer out by the end of the week. Lisa would focus on sending the professional survey to Dr. Chowa to forward onward to the OB community. Lisa believes it would be helpful if the survey was also sent to the family medicine community. She would ask Dr. Michelle Drew if she would share the information with the mid-wife community. In addition, Lisa would see if Rita Newt would send it out to the ~~A-1~~ AWHONN members in the state. Leah could send the surveys out to the public health nurses and community health workers. For the community flyer, Lisa was going to reach out to some of the community education programs. Lisa advised, since a lot of community education programs are online, a link could be sent and forwarded to their friends and their comments would be recorded.

## Susan Noyes, Cynthia Guy, and Tiffany Chalk- Gave compliments on the great job Lisa had done creating the infographic flyers and surveys.

* **Leah Woodall-** Suggested mimicking an approach used in the past. For example, Kicks Count. In the past, we used an introduction letter which could have come from our co-chairs and/or Dr. Colmorgen. To help with the survey response rate, we would circulate the introduction letter along with the survey, demonstrating we were in the developmental phase. This approach may take a little extra time but will help on the back end.
* **Leah** **Woodall**-Advised since Public Health’s logo is on the flyer DPH would need to elevate the document to our communications office. The most leverage DPH has to use to circulate the survey is to first lead with the introductory letter, then it could be shared with HWHB providers and community health workers. Community Health Workers network 501c. is also a possible resource.

## Leah Woodall- Advised if RNC-OB Coordinator, Lisa Klein had received a commitment up front from the partners to include their logos, it should be fine to circulate the survey with the attached infographics.

* **Susan Noyes-** Suggested she and Leah talk to Lisa offline. Susan is not sure if an introductory letter would be needed for the survey or would it be needed for the implementation.
* **Leah** **Woodall**- Suggested in the survey to include a small introduction listing the partners and a brief summary of the purpose.
* **Susan** **Noyes**- Advised Infographics came out of the national campaign, that we tried to make Delaware specific. Susan acknowledged, by working with the CDC which already has multiple languages translated, would really extend our saturation.

## DHMIC Summit Update

* **Susan** **Noyes**- Advised DHMIC Summit Update: Invitation DHMIC is scheduled for April 26, 2022. If the invitation was not received, Susan requested participants put their email address in the chat.
* Summit is virtual this year, the invitation can be shared with colleagues in and out of the state. The summit is normally only for Delawareans.
* Great national speakers coming: Dr. David Williams, Jennie Joseph talking about transforming women’s healthcare and Angelina Splicer discussing post-partum revolution, really focusing on emotional wellness during post-partum time period. Angelina Splicer is an activist and stand-up comedian. Angelina will be utilizing a different approach to communicate information. Local Delaware features will be done in breakout sessions. Examples: Maternal Health Warning Signs.
* To date over 200 people have registered. There are not any caps on how many people can register.
* Nominate an individual or an organization for the Health Equity Champion Award.
* New Platform, Hoppin, will be utilized for the summit addressing any issues with interaction in the breakout sessions.
* **Leah** **Woodall**- Pitched Dr. Kitty Esterly Community Health Champion Award submissions for Individual and Organization.
* **Susan** **Noyes**- Advised at 11 o’clock that day, there will be an acknowledgement of Black Maternal Health Awareness Week, there will be a resolution presented, followed by a panel discussing the issues and challenges of Black Maternal Health in Delaware.

**Emotional Wellness:**

* **Susan Noyes-** Updates on discussion regarding emotional wellness held with Anne DeCaire on March 5, 2022. Emotional Wellness is even more important during and coming out of the pandemic. Anne is working on some efforts she will share about possible training. Such as, women discontinuing taking their medication for emotional wellness once they become pregnant. Some women stop taking their medication without getting healthcare provider evaluation and advice, or their healthcare provider takes them off their medication out of concern because they are not familiar with the risk, pros, and cons of the medication. Susan advised they would like to try to integrate this concern into the Black Maternal Health Awareness Week.

## Adjournment

**The meeting was adjourned at 1:48pm**

## \*\*\*\*Next meeting April 12, 2022\*\*\*\*

**Minutes prepared by:** Vonnetta Graves-Brooks

**Minutes reviewed by:**

**Minutes Respectfully Submitted by:**

**Minutes approved by:**