

Health Commission: Birth Equity Committee | MINUTES

November 17th, 2021 | 10:30AM |

Present Members

Hakima Payne
(Health Commission Co-Chair)
Samantha Collinson
(Community Co-Chair)
Dr. Jumesha Wade
Nia Casey
Deidra West
Tracy Russel
Keesha King

Absent Members

Claire Wilkinson
Britany Dwyer
Crystal Captain
Elizabeth Lewis

Health Commissioners

HD Staff

Erica Taylor
John Santner

AGENDA ITEMS AND DISCUSSION

Welcome and Introductions

Samantha Collison called the meeting to order at 10:34AM.

- Welcome and Introductions
 - Welcomes Laine as she will be taking over Samantha Collinson's previous role at University Health
- Review of October 20th, 2021 Minutes
 - **Motion:** Tracy Russel motioned to approve the October 20th, 2021 minutes. Deidra West seconded. Unanimously approved.

Old Business

Legislative Update by Tracy Russel

- Latest Federal Build Back Better plan does extend Post-partem coverage in Medicaid for one year
- The Federal House of Representatives have put language back into the Build Back Better plan for paid family leave for 4-weeks
 - The Paid Family Leave was one of the last things to be taken out earlier in the year at the behest of Senator Joe Manchin
 - The United States is 1 of 6 developed nations that do not offer paid family leave
 - The house is expected to vote on the Build Back Better Act the week of November 15th, and it will then be sent over to the Senate if it passes
- The state of Missouri is working on a bill to extend post-partem coverage in Medicaid for the State of Missouri in case the federal legislation does not pass
- On November 16th, 2021 the Federal House of Representatives passed the Protecting Moms Who Serve ACT
 - This bill requires the Department of Veteran Affairs (VA) to implement the maternity care coordination program
 - The VA must provide community maternity care providers with training and support with the unique needs of pregnant and postpartum veterans particularly regarding mental and behavioral health conditions
 - Passed through the Federal House of Representatives with a vote of 414-9 vote
 - This was one of the bills that made up the Black Momnibus Act to pass both the House of Representatives and the Senate and waiting to be signed by the President of the United States

Best Babies Zone Updates and Recommendations

- Nurse Update by Hillary Lindstrom
 - Replacing Josie Adams as the Nurse Family Partnership (NFP) Director
 - Nurse Family Partnership specifically focused on zip code 64128 and other zip codes with the highest infant mortality rates
 - Recently transitioned into this position so has not been able to attend the Best Babies Zone meetings
 - In general, there has not been a lot of referrals from the 64128-zip code
 - Nurse Family Partnership do not have a dedicated nurse for this zip code
 - The Nurse Family Partnership is state funded serving seven different counties the nurses case load is full and are unable to provide a nurse dedicated to the 64128-zip code
 - The 64128-zip code does have priority in referrals to services
 - Health Levy fund could be one way to get a nurse to serve as the 64128-zip code sole administrator
 - The commission agrees that the priorities should be going to the zip codes with the greatest infant mortality rate

- Near Miss Review Board by Hakima Payne
 - o Completed the template
 - o Will not have a meeting in December
 - o Next steps get input from community stakeholders and to get funding for a pilot program
- Health Equity Updates
 - o No updates at this time
- Fetal Monitoring Review
 - o No update at this time

New Business

Black Maternal Health Week

- [Black Maternal Health Week - Black Mamas Matter Alliance](#)
- Samantha Collinson was able to connect with Councilwoman Parks-Shaw on how Kansas City, Missouri can recognize Black Maternal Health Week here locally
 - o Councilwoman Parks-Shaw was eager to recognize this effort in Kansas City and will continue to work with this committee in the planning efforts
- This committee will continue to strategize and operationalize how to get this work off the ground

Housing Discussion

- Birth Equity and Housing are intersectional issues
- Follow-up with members of KC Tenants and City staff from the Housing and Community Development Department on a housing in KC landscape
- Someone from the Birth Equity committee will continue to attend those Housing meetings
- KC Tenants Town Hall is on Thursday Nov. 18th from 6:00-8:30pm at Manual Career Technical Center 1215 E. Truman Road
- Possibly have a joint meeting with Birth Equity Committee and Housing Committee
- **Action:** Invite an Ad Hoc Housing Committee member to sit in on the Birth Equity Committee meetings and semi-annually provide updates

Additional Business

Covid-19 Updates

- Kansas City, Missouri KCMO Covid-19 Dashboard: [ArcGIS Dashboards Classic](#)

General Discussion on Health Commission

- No updates at this time

Announcements

- Health Commission Meet and Greet
 - o Have the Meet and Greet more often perhaps quarterly; will discuss more with the health commission co-chairs
- Safe Sleep Certification
 - o This program works with some of the Hospitals in the metro with the first program partnering with Providence
 - o [Hospital Certification – Cribs for Kids](#)
- Start at Zero is looking to hire more Parent Educators
 - o [Start at Zero - Parent Educator - Bilingual in English and Somali, Spanish, Burmese/Karen, or Arabic - Job Description - Nonprofit Connect \(npconnect.org\)](#)
- Uzazi Village is heading into their 10th year

- Still seeing patients at the pre-natal clinic
- Distributing toys to their families through Toys for Tot

Due to the winter holidays and no pressing business to discuss, the Chairs have decided to cancel the December Birth Equity Committee meeting

The meeting was adjourned at 11:14am

The next Birth Equity Committee Meeting will be January 19th, 2022