

**Black Maternal Health Week 2025  
Planning Committee Meeting Minutes**

January 8, 2025, 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm

**Meeting Goals (from Agenda):**

- Venue & Logistics Updates
- Theme & Programming
- Vendor Invitations
- Advertising

**Attendees:**

Co-Chairs: Sam Cribbs (HCHD), Erica Taylor (OCF)

Members: Erin Anderson (HCHD), Regina Clay (CareFirst BCBS), Dr. Marilyn Berchie-Gialamas (Trinity Wellness Team), Marsha Dawson, (HC Office of Local Children's Board), Nyanie Henriquez (HCHD, PEACE), Beatrice Osei-Amoh, (African Immigrants Dream Inc.), Shay Stancil (United Healthcare), Patrice Tucker (United Healthcare)

LHIC Staff: Stephanie Foster, Ashton Jordan, and Maribet Rivera-Brute

Topics	Item	Updates
Venue & Logistics	Venue Location	Ms. Cribbs provided details about the upcoming event scheduled for April 26th at Miller Library, which will accommodate up to 130 attendees. The event is strategically planned to follow Black Maternal Health Week, avoiding conflicts with spring break. The extended hours from 10 AM to 4 PM aim to enhance organization and engagement.
	Logistics	Tentative agenda (definitely subject to change): <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 10a-11a: Vendor &amp; Panel Set-up</li><li>• 11a-12p: Panel Discussion</li><li>• 12p-2p: Breakout Sessions, Tabling, Lunch</li><li>• 2p-230p: Yoga &amp; start event breakdown</li><li>• 230-330: Full event breakdown</li></ul>
	Additional Info	Planning to bring lunch for attendees since it will be a long day and to incentivize attendance, most likely be boxed lunches from Panera.
Theme & Programming	Theme	National Theme (from Black Mamas Matter): Healing Legacies: Strengthening Black Maternal Health through Collective Action and Advocacy

(Speakers and Tabling)	Ideas	<p>Panel discussion focused around advocacy (personal, political, in the healthcare setting); 2-3 breakout sessions that dig deeper into specific forms of advocacy (e.g. how caregivers can advocate for partners/family members, how to write your representative, etc.) with wellness activities (Reiki, 5 minute massages) and vendor tabling happening at the same time; a 20-30 minute group yoga class to close out the event.</p> <p>Ms. Nyanie Henriquez, HCHD Maternal and Infant Program Coordinator (P.E.A.C.E.), discussed the advocacy roles of Bloom Collective and Mom Congress, noting their focus on storytelling and legislative engagement. They shared experiences from a conference where participants learned to effectively communicate their stories to lawmakers, contributing to initiatives like the maternal mental health hotline. Other members expressed support for these groups and mentioned additional resources like Living Advocacy and Trinity Wellness.</p> <p>Other ideas were plans for outreach and inclusivity, particularly for non-English speaking black women and undocumented immigrants. The group considered providing program materials in multiple languages and including resources for underserved populations. Additional discussions structured around breakout sessions, engaging younger audiences, and promoting the event effectively, (i.e. Wilde Lake High School - Her.Care Group)</p>
	Panels and Speakers	<p>The discussion shifted to the importance of advocacy in Black maternal health, with participants sharing personal experiences and ideas for the event format, including panel discussions and storytelling. Ms. Shay Stancil from UnitedHealthcare proposed a comprehensive panel that would address advocacy from various perspectives. The group emphasized the need to raise public awareness about legislative issues affecting women's health and discussed potential speakers, including Jennifer Hall, providing insights into recent legislative sessions and the Maternal Health Act.</p>
	Breakout Sessions and Tabling participants	<p>Ms. Cribbs also suggested outlined plans for breakout sessions at an upcoming event, emphasizing the success of last year's prenatal massage and Reiki offerings. There was a suggestion to include a breakout session specifically for fathers and</p>

		caregivers, as well as discussions on how to better engage younger audiences.
	Moderator	No Moderator selected yet. Stephanie will remind Sam and Erica during the Feb. 11 <sup>th</sup> meeting.
Registration Invitations and Advertising	Registration Invites	<p>The necessity of registration and a cap on attendance was also highlighted, along with a timeline for advertising and logistics, ensuring a well-organized event that addresses broader women's health issues beyond pregnancy.</p> <p>The group also discussed the importance of advertising and reaching out to faith-based organizations for broader community involvement.</p> <p>Other ideas from the groups were regarding outlined plans for promoting an event at Miller Library, suggesting the use of flyers and TV ads while coordinating with HC Communications for advertising efforts, ideas for providing lunch, highlighting that free food would attract attendees, and discussing the possibility of using food trucks, while also addressing library policies regarding food service.</p>
	Next meeting and steps	<p>Ms. Foster concluded the meeting by announcing the dates of future meetings leading to the event and thanked everyone for their contributions during the meeting.</p> <p>Next meeting is scheduled for February 11, 2025.</p>

Respectfully submitted by:

Ms. Stephanie Foster

Community Engagement Coordinator

Howard County Health Department