

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

February 5, 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)

Members: Erin Anderson (HCHD), Shakia Colbert (CareFirst BlueCross BlueShield), Dr. Marilyn Berchie-Gialamas (Trinity Wellness Team), Marsha Dawson (HC Office of Local Children's Board), Lisa DeHernandez (HCHD), Lidymar Gonzalez (HCHD), Nyanie Henriquez (HCHD, PEACE), Beatrice Osei-Amoh, (African Immigrants Dream Inc.), Tamala Reid (HCHD), Matt Wilson (HCHD)

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 (Ellicott and Patapsco Rooms), with will accommodate up to 130 attendees. The extended hours from 10 am to 4 pm aim to enhance organization and engagement.
	Logistics	Tentative agenda (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: Masseuse &amp; start event breakdown</li><li>• 230-330: Full event breakdown</li></ul>
	Additional Info	Ms. Shakia Colbert, Carefirst BlueCross BlueShield, acknowledged that she could cover the cost for Yoga or a meditation session during the event. Dr. Marilyn Berchie-Gialamas expressed the need to have a moment of meditation at the beginning of the event to alleviate any stress and/or anxiety that comes with planning and prepping for such a large event.

Theme & Programming (Speakers and Tabling)	Theme	<p>Ashton Jordan came up with several different themes geared more towards the meaning of Black Maternal Health Week and the importance of advocacy for change. The majority voted for the updated theme for the event: Honoring Black Motherhood: Healing, Advocacy, and Unity for Change.</p> <p>Mr. Jordan also created three different versions of the flyer for the event and the group selected the one that received the most likes. Members will send their logos to be added to the finalized version of the flyer for the event and Mr. Jordan will send to HCHD Communications for approval.</p>
	Ideas	<p>Ideas discussed 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.</p> <p>Ms. Maribet Rivera-Brute, LHIC Director, suggested creating a practical toolkit for advocacy for Black Maternal Health. Ms. Cribbs agreed to contact Luminus for more information.</p>
	Panels and Speakers	<p>Ms. Cribbs gave details regarding the panel discussions and asked for member feedback as to who should be involved.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Panel should include 3 or 4 panelists. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Students from Wilde Lake High School (Her.Care Group)</li> <li>○ A Mother's Personal story.</li> <li>○ Community Organizer</li> <li>○ Medical Practitioner and/or Researcher for Maternal Health (Preferably Black MD Practitioner).</li> <li>○ Legislative representative</li> <li>○ Ms. Marsha Dawson will ask neighbor to be a panelist to share a story</li> <li>○ Ms. Cribbs and Ms. Henríquez will reach out to Jennifer Hall, Medical Providers, and the Wilde Lake High School – Her.Care Group - to participate during the event.</li> <li>○ Ms. Henríquez is working on securing vendors</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
	Breakout Sessions and	<p>Ms. Cribbs also suggested the breakout sessions be geared towards undocumented/recent immigrants:</p>

	Tabling participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To help with providing tips and resources that are available for them in the community.</li> <li>And how neighbors can help support them.</li> </ul> <p>And advocacy for expectant fathers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Advocacy for themselves and for their partners</li> <li>Give support regarding being prepared throughout the labor and during delivery.</li> </ul>
	Moderator	Moderator for this year's event is still pending. Will be discussed at the next meeting as well as discuss questions for the events.
Registration Invitations and Advertising	Registration Invites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ms. Cribbs will create the Eventbrite registration link.</li> <li>Limit on registrations will be in place (walk-ins will be allowed but not advertised).</li> <li>Advertising will start on March 24<sup>th</sup> through April 25<sup>th</sup>.</li> <li>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.</li> </ul>
	Next meeting and steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sam has requested that the March 5<sup>th</sup> meeting be extended to 2:30 pm to allow enough time to go over all the logistics for the event.</li> <li>Ms. Foster thanked everyone for attending the meeting and expressed her gratitude for the engaging conversations for members of the planning committee.</li> </ul>

Respectfully submitted by:

Ms. Stephanie Foster

Community Engagement Coordinator

Howard County Health Department