

Howard County Local Health Improvement Coalition (HCLHIC)

2025 Black Maternal Health Week (BMHW)

Planning Committee Meeting Minutes

March 5, 2025

1:00 pm – 2:00 pm

Meeting Goals (from Agenda):

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

Attendees:

Co-Chairs: Samantha Cribbs (Howard County Health Department (HCHD)), Erica Taylor (Howard County Office of Children and Families)

Members: Erin Anderson (HCHD), Mayra Ramos (CareFirst BlueCross BlueShield), Dr. Marilyn Berchie-Gialamas (Trinity Wellness Team), Lidymar Gonález (HCHD), Nyanie Henríquez (HCHD, The Perinatal Equity and Care for Everyone (P.E.A.C.E.) Project), Beatrice Osei-Amoh, (African Immigrants Dream, Inc.), Tamala Reid (HCHD), Shay Stancil (UnitedHealthcare), Erin Anderson (HCHD), Ovan Shortt (HC Office of Children and Families), Patricia Odetola (HCHD), Ivory Brown, Dr. Phyllis Campbell (OB-GYN)

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), both rooms combined will accommodate up to 130 attendees. The extended hours from 10 am to 4 pm aim to enhance organization and engagement. The rooms will be left divided.
	Logistics	Agenda for the event: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 10 am-11 am: Vendor & Panel Set-up• 11 am-11:15 am: Welcome/Reiki/Meditation• 11:15 am-12:15 pm: Advocacy Panel Discussion and Q & A• 12:15 pm-1 pm: Lunch/Tabling (Massage ongoing)

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 pm-1:45 pm: Breakout Session 1 - Advocacy Support for Fathers (Tabling & Massage ongoing) • 1:45 pm-2:30 pm: Breakout Session 2 - Advocacy support for Spanish Speakers (Tabling & Massage ongoing) • 2:30 pm-3:30 pm: Full event breakdown
	Additional Info	Ms. Samantha Cribbs, HCHD, acknowledged the health professionals and community members who were participating in the event, such as Dr. Phyllis Campbell, OB-GYN, and Dr. Marilyn Berchie-Gialamas, Trinity Wellness Team. The focus of the upcoming event will be on advocacy and wellness, including panel discussions.
Theme & Programming (Speakers and Tabling)	Theme	<p>Ms. Cribbs discussed the event's structure, highlighting the panel, Q&A, and networking opportunities with community organizations. A fatherhood breakout session will be introduced to engage fathers and support people in maternal health discussions. Additionally, there are plans for a Spanish-language breakout session to support non-English speaking attendees.</p> <p>Ms. Nyanie Henríquez (HCHD, P.E.A.C.E.), shared the national theme for the Black Mamas Matter Alliance, highlighted the need for diverse community voices in advocacy, and the importance of including fathers and caregivers in support systems for mothers during prenatal and postpartum periods.</p>
	Food and giveaways for attendees	<p>Ms. Cribbs confirmed that her department, HC Bureau of Family Health Services, would be responsible for purchasing the food, and there will be enough room for attendees to sit and eat during the event.</p> <p>The Committee members emphasized the importance of accommodating dietary preferences and mentioned plans for box lunches due to space constraints.</p> <p>In addition, giveaways and raffle items will be provided for attendees of the event, recalling the positive feedback from last year's giveaway bags. Committee members committed to providing items such as baby-care products and self-care kits for mothers and considered including lactation consultations as a raffle item to support breastfeeding.</p>

		Other Committee members expressed the significance of providing services and giveaways to reinforce community building at the event. Ms. Erica Taylor, HC Office of Children and Families, committed to offering journals and scented candles, while others expressed a willingness to provide children's books. The group also discussed having items like coloring books, particularly those with school-aged children.
	Moderator	Patricia Odetola, HCHD Bureau of Infection Control and Public Health Readiness, Community Health Nursing (CHN) Program Supervisor, will be the Moderator for this year's BMHW Event. Ms. Cribbs will work with Ms. Odetola preparing questions for the panelists.
	Panels and Speakers	Ms. Cribbs gave details regarding the panels and speakers for the event. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There will be a panel with a Q&A session during the event: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ovan Shortt, Office of Children and Families, will attend the event. Panel participants will be from all levels of maternal health advocacy in the community.
	Breakout Sessions and Tabling participants	Ms. Cribbs outlined the arrangement for community organizations to have tables at the event, noting that 11 tables are available, with some being set up in the main rooms and others in the hallway, and she provided a list of confirmed organizations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> UnitedHealth, Trinity Wellness, Just Living Advocacy, CareFirst, WIC, Coaching Solud Holística, have confirmed on attending the event. Howard County Office of Children and Families will also have a table at the event. Waiting to hear back from Columbia Community Care, Blossom and Grow Wellness Center. Breakout sessions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The first Breakout Session will discuss Advocacy Support for Fathers. The second breakout session will discuss Advocacy support for Spanish speaking attendees. <p>Lastly, members addressed the set up for the upcoming community health event, including the potential need for a</p>

		<p>table for the Howard County Local Health Improvement Coalition (HCLHIC) and the inclusion of Healthy Smiles Dental as a dental provider for expecting mothers, as well as expressing excitement about the confirmed participants and the variety of resources that will be available at the event.</p>
Registration Invitations and Advertising	Registration Invites and Flyer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Ashton Jordan created the Eventbrite registration for the event and emphasized the importance of having information about lunch, the breakout sessions listed and having a QR Code to facilitate registration and to track engagement. • Plans are to finalize and publicize the event materials at the conclusion of the meeting. • The Committee agreed on a ticket limit of 85 for the event. • The ticket limit will be 85 for the event and members expressed enthusiasm about the potential turnout. • Registration will close at least a couple of days before the event (April 23rd). • Adjustments to the rooms can be made to accommodate the numbers of attendees. • Members focused on refining the event flyer to ensure it effectively communicates inclusivity for families and support people. Dr. Berchie- Gialamas proposed the phrase “bring your village” be added to the flyer to attract a broader audience. • Walk-ins will be allowed but not advertised. Members acknowledged the importance of registration for planning purposes, while ensuring the walk-ins would still be welcomed at the event. • Advertising will start the week of March 10th.
	Next meeting and steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Cribbs thanked everyone for their hard work organizing the event. • Ms. Foster thanked everyone for attending the meeting, expressed her gratitude for the members’ participation and excitement regarding the event. • The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 2nd at 2 pm via Zoom.

Howard County LHIC

Local Health Improvement Coalition



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Respectfully submitted by:

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