

Delaware Strategies to Advance Health Equity in Maternal and Infant Health

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DHMIC Goals

1. **Eliminate disparities** between White, Black, and Hispanic infant and maternal mortality rates.
2. **Reduce the preterm birthrate** from 11% to less than 7%, to be the lowest in the country.
3. Develop an **innovative model of care** that addresses health disparities and helps reduce preterm births.



The Structure of the DHMIC: DHMIC Members and Executive Committee

The DHMIC is made up of 21 members jointly appointed by the Governor and the legislature. As a group, they provide statewide leadership in maternal and child health built around:

Partnership collaboration



Program development



Advocacy



Policy support

Quality improvement



Care access



Stakeholder training



Address social determinants
of health

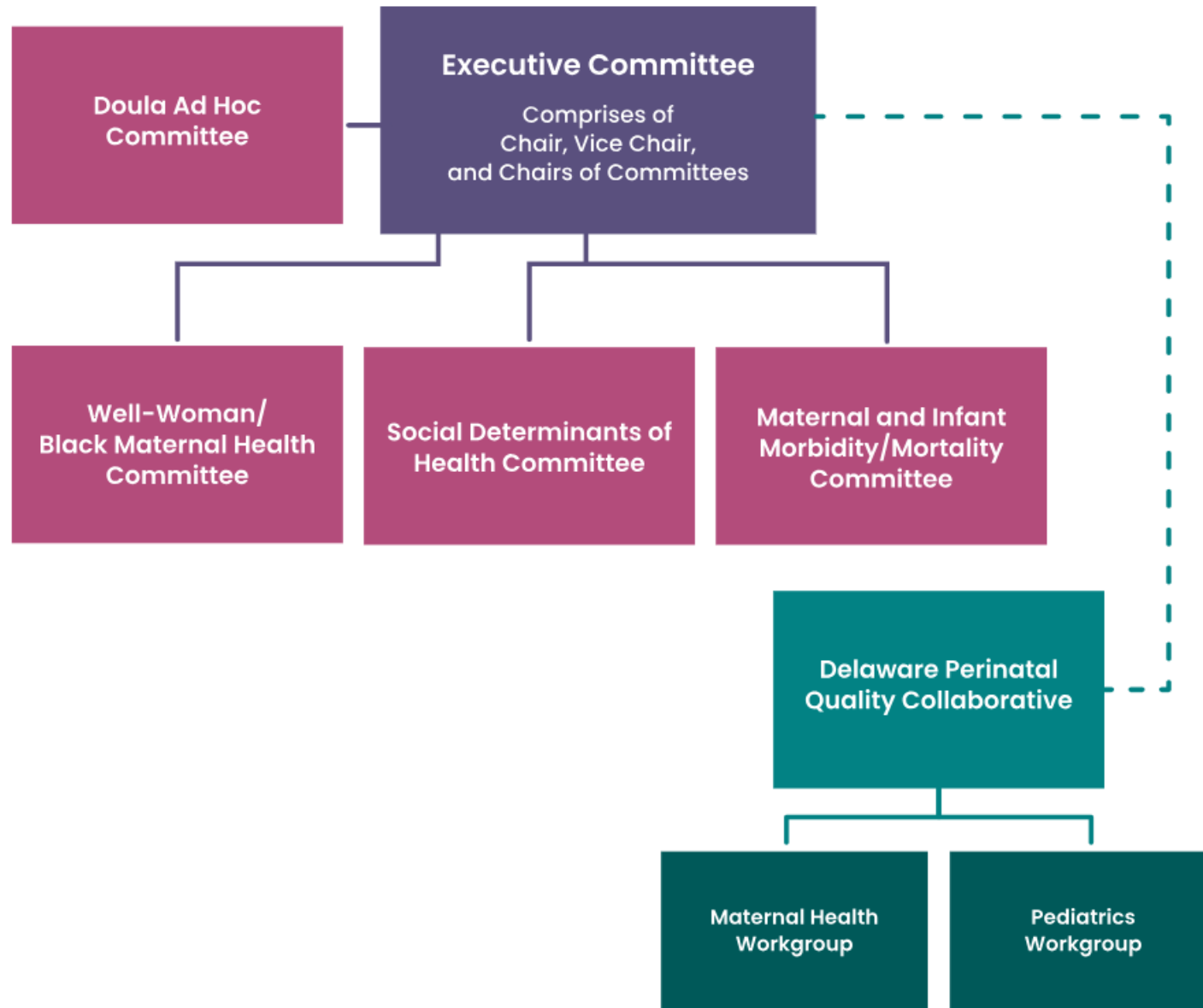
DHMIC APPOINTED MEMBERSHIP CONSTITUTION

Membership Constitution

- **Two (2) representatives of the Delaware House of Representatives and two (2) representatives of the Delaware State Senate (each caucus selects one member for each chamber)**
- **One (1) representative of the Governor's office**
- **The Secretary of the Department of Children, Youth & Their Families, or the Secretary's designee**
- **The Secretary of the Department of Health and Social Services, or the Secretary's designee**
- **The Director of the Division of Medicaid and Medical Assistance or the Director's designee**
- **Fifteen (15) additional members approved by the Governor who shall represent the medical, social service, and professional communities as well as the general public**

<https://legis.delaware.gov/json/BillDetail/GetHtmlDocument?fileAttachmentId=30887>

Committees and Workgroups Organization



DHMIC Organizational Structure

WELL WOMAN/BLACK MATERNAL HEALTH COMMITTEES



Combined Committee purpose/objectives/goals:

- Implement comprehensive, evidence-based approaches to reproductive and perinatal health
- Address the persistent maternal health disparities gap for Black women grassroots organizations awareness campaigns as well as provider and consumers education
- Address maternal mental and behavioral health needs

Co-Chairs:

- Tiffany Chalk, Vice-Chair, Delaware Healthy Mother & Infant Consortium and Owner, Tiffany Chalk Events
- Mona Hamlin, Perinatal Resources and Community Programs, Milk Bank, Manager, Christiana Care Health System

Major efforts in CY23:

- Launched web-based survey to gather members' input on priorities related to fourth trimester health and wellness

SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH COMMITTEE

Major efforts or projects since 2022

- Conducted a feasibility study of a housing pilot for pregnant, unstably housed women
 - If housing vouchers not covered by federal dollars, expense of program is too high, and other options should be considered.
- Committee decided to conduct two small demonstration projects
 - Guaranteed Basic Income, like many around the country
 - Successfully enrolled 40 women providing \$1,000 per month for 24 months ending in November 2024
 - Housing using specific voucher program
 - Voucher program ended rapidly due to high need so demonstration project never got off the ground



DOULA AD HOC COMMITTEE



- **Community Engagement and Advocacy:** Establish partnerships with health systems, Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) and health care providers to promote awareness of and advocacy for doulas and community doulas.
- **Education and Standards of Practice:** Develop Delaware specific standards of practice for community doulas and identify culturally appropriate community doula educational curriculums.
- **Policy and Data:** Employ a Health in All Policies (HiAP) approach that includes attention to drives of inequities and policy strategies to remove structural barriers and facilitate opportunities.
- **Sustainability:** Research and conduct financial analysis supportive of determining a viable livable wage for services provided by community doulas and doulas as well as exploring Medicaid reimbursement opportunities

DHMIC Support

Highlighted Strategies



POLICY EFFORTS TO ADDRESS MORTALITY, INCLUDING RACIAL DISPARITIES

Delaware MOMNIBUS 2022

- House Bill 234 extends Medicaid coverage through the 1st year postpartum
- House Bill 342 includes protections for pregnant prisoners regarding restraints
- House Bill 343 requires Medicaid provide a plan for coverage of doula services
- HS2 for House Bill 344 requires bias and competency training for health care workers
- House Bill 80 implements Medicaid coverage for doula care services for birthing women during pregnancy, labor, delivery, and postpartum





Healthy Women, Healthy Babies

Initiative

The aim of the Healthy Women Healthy Baby Zones, as part of the infant mortality reduction work in Delaware, is to build state and local capacity, and test small scale innovative strategies in the community to shift the impact of social determinants of health tied to root causes related to infant mortality.



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Community Based Organizations

3⁺

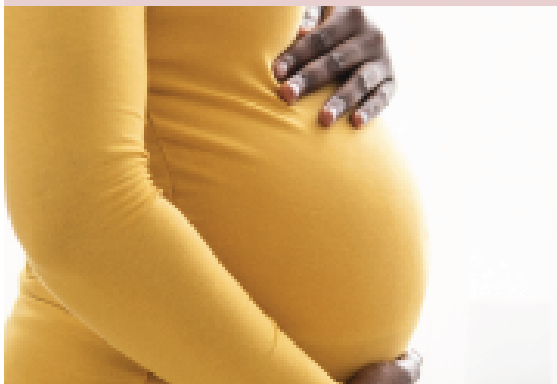
Years

550⁺

Women Served
Primarily age 15-44
Primarily women of color

Healthy Women Healthy Babies Zones 2

Areas of Need/Focus	Addressing Specific Needs Education & Resources Mini-grantees address lack of support for and knowledge about breastfeeding, access to jobs with a living wage, need for emergency financial support, need for pregnancy planning and reproductive health education Physical & Mental Health Addressing isolation and disconnection, lack of doulas of color and resources to do self-care, preventive physical health care, stress, anxiety, and other mental health concerns	Programs and Services Provided Resources & Support They meet these needs through programs that provide social support, education about and support of breastfeeding, job training and career counseling, flex funds, training to become a doula, wellness classes, fitness, and nutrition education, referrals to other service, counseling, education about pregnancy planning and reproductive health
<ul style="list-style-type: none">» Mental Health (including Stress, depression, wellness)» Father Involvement» Physical Health» Social Networking» Healthy Lifestyles» Longer Term Outcomes» Financial Stability	Outcomes <ul style="list-style-type: none">» Statistically significant reductions in stress» Over a dozen trained doulas who are women of color» Increases in breastfeeding initiation and duration» Increases in feelings of hopefulness» Reductions in financial stress	



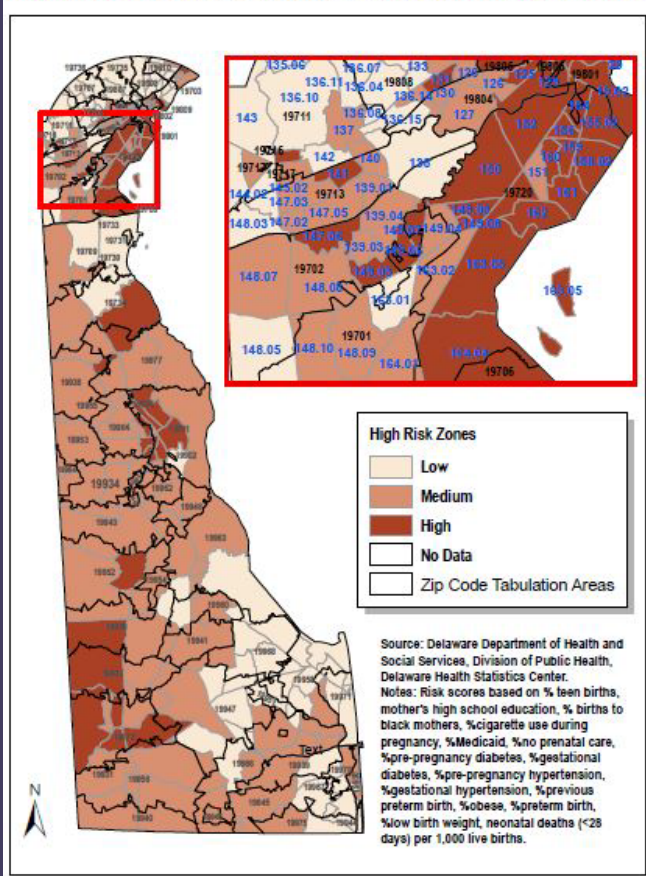
Guaranteed Basic Income Program

Women Enrolled Receive:

- \$1,000 per month, on debit card
- Financial Coaching
- Case Management Services



Healthy Women Healthy Babies Risk Zones in Delaware by Census Tracts, 2010-2018



Lives in HWHB
Zone



Pregnant Women in
1st or 2nd Trimester

Household Size	Maximum Monthly Gross Income
1	\$1,987
2	\$2,686
3	\$3,386
4	\$4,087
5	\$4,786
6	\$5,485
7	\$6,186
8	\$6,886

Under 185% FPL

Eligibility for HWHB Opportunity

Home Visiting

- Evidence-based home visitation services improve outcomes for children and families residing in communities at high risk of health problems:
 - Infant mortality
 - Premature birth
 - Domestic violence
 - Child maltreatment
 - Poverty
 - Crime; and
 - Substance abuse.



IMAGINE. IMPACT. INNOVATE.



SAVE THE DATE

THE 18TH ANNUAL **DELAWARE HEALTHY MOTHER & INFANT CONSORTIUM SUMMIT**

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17, 2024 • 8:30 A.M. to 4 P.M.
CHASE CENTER ON THE RIVERFRONT

More information will be released soon!

FREE IN-PERSON EVENT.

Continuing education credits offered.



- **350 Maternal and Child Health Stakeholders**
- **Best practices and promising approaches**
- **Local and national speakers**

#MentalHealthMatters



Delaware Thrives is with Delaware Department of Education (DDOE).

Follow

Mar 2 •

No teen should suffer in silence from stress or other mental health concerns. This World Teen Mental Wellness Day, tell your teen about Project ... See more

LISTEN. LEARN. THRIVE.

What is Stress?

An uncomfortable feeling you get when you are scared, angry, worried, or frustrated, which affects your mood and body in many different ways.

Dial 2-1-1 or text your zip code to 898-211



ADOLESCENT HEALTH



THRIVE

Trauma Health Recovery Innovation & Engagement



Awareness | Access | Support

The Delaware Department of Education (DDOE) developed **Project THRIVE** to help children receive trauma-informed support from their schools, communities, and caregivers which includes:

- **Free mental health services** to eligible Delaware students — grades Pre-K through 12 attending Delaware public, private, parochial, and homeschools
- **Counseling and support** to students struggling with traumatic situations such as physical or emotional abuse, community violence, racism, bullying, and more, which can harm mental and physical health as well as limit school success

Learn more and get help at: de.gov/projectthrive

To get started, dial 2-1-1 or text your zip code to 898-211.
Let your specialist know you're interested in learning more about Project THRIVE.



2-1-1



! Urgent Maternal Warning Signs

Pregnant or gave birth within the last year?

If you have any of these urgent warning signs,
call 9-1-1 or go to the nearest Emergency Room/OB Triage!



Headache that
won't go away or
gets worse over
time, with or without
vision changes



Trouble breathing



Baby's movements
stop or slow down



Seizures



Vaginal bleeding
or fluid leaking
during pregnancy



Severe belly pain
that doesn't
go away



Thoughts about hurting
yourself or your baby

When you get to
the Emergency
Room/OB Triage,
tell them:

Your name

You are pregnant
or had a cesarean
or vaginal delivery
on (date)

Who your OB
Provider is and
where you
delivered

The warning
sign you are
experiencing



Delaware Department of Health and
Social Services (DHSS) ✓

Apr 13 • 🌐

This #BMHW23, visit <https://bit.ly/3GDwb3t> to learn
more about #BlackMaternalHealth and how we can
empower all voices to drive change. Be sure to check
our website for updates and scheduled events.

Celebrate
**Black Maternal
Health Week with us!**

OUR BODIES BELONG TO US:

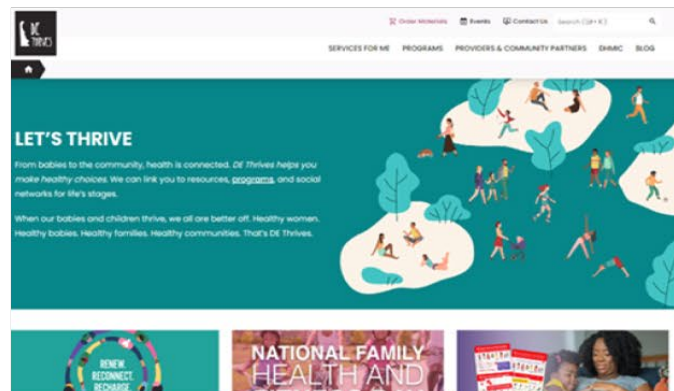
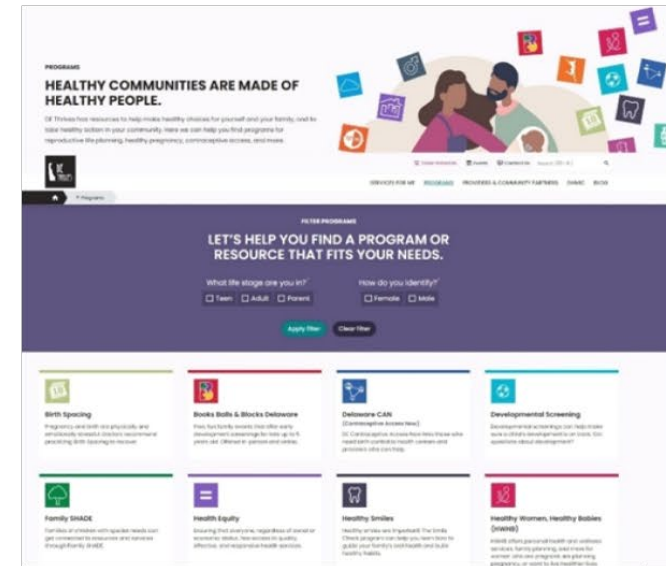
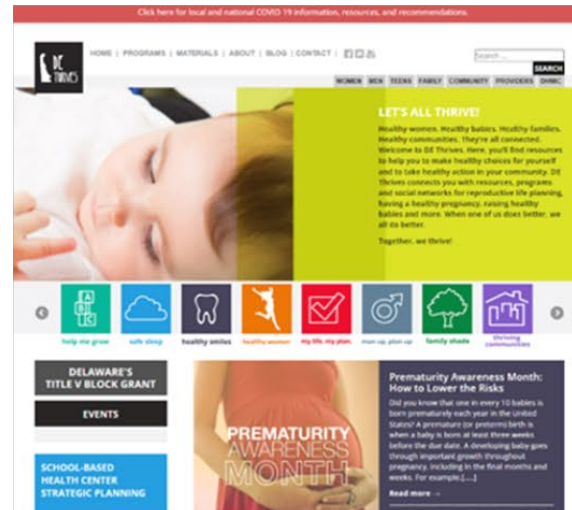
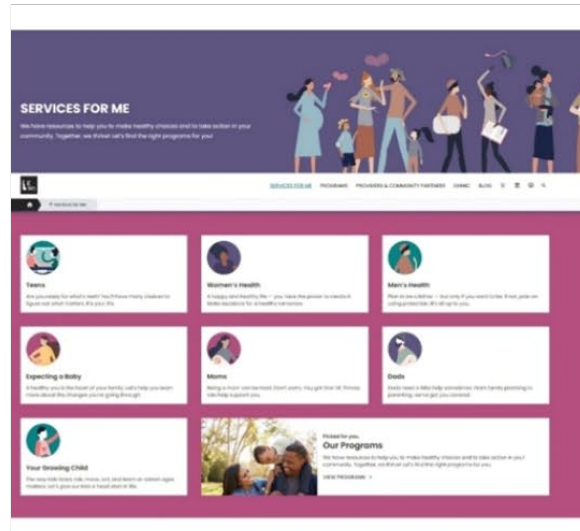
*Restoring Black
Autonomy and Joy!*

April 11-17



2 shares

DETHRIVES – Social Marketing, Outreach and Education



DETHRIVES

Overview of DEThrives Website



Wish List & Recommendations

- Creative ways to use federal grants
- Data (i.e. timely, reliable, interoperability, accessible)
 - Statewide integrated organization database
 - Resources utilization data tracking
- Primary care promotion
 - Address overall health and wellness when in preconception, using lifecourse approach to reduce high risk pregnancies
- Expand and diversify and find ways to finance MCH and Perinatal Workforce (particularly MCTA shortage areas- doulas, community health workers, birth workers, etc.)

Wish List & Recommendations 2

- Doula Integration
 - Embed as medical team member and create hospital standardization policies
- Expanded SIDS education and resources
 - Community-based education and infant product availability with expected OB appointments
- Medicaid
 - Expansion; creative ways and encourage use of SPA amendments and 1115 Waivers
- Collaboration, coordination, and leadership at the local and state level



Thank you.

