



Maternal & Child Health Advisory Task Force

Maternal and Child Health

The Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Advisory Task Force has provided the Commissioner of Health with guidance and advice on maternal and child health issues for over 30 years. Members of the task force represent maternal and child health care providers, local public health agencies and community members. This group provides MDH with expert advice and guidance on issues related to improving the health of mothers and children, including children and youth with special health needs and their families.

The MCH Advisory Task Force, authorized under Minnesota Statutes, section 145.8811, is scheduled to expire on June 30, 2015. Eliminating the sunset date will allow for the continuation of valuable ongoing input to the Commissioner of Health on public health issues that impact pregnant and parenting women, infants, children and families, especially those at highest risk for poor health outcomes. This advisory task force will continue to play a key role in supporting Minnesota's federal Title V MCH Block Grant annual application and guiding the federally required maternal and child health needs assessment process.

Purpose of the Task Force

The MCH Advisory Task Force was created by the Minnesota Legislature in 1982 to advise the Commissioner of Health on:

1. The health care needs of mothers and children throughout Minnesota;
2. The type, frequency and impact of publicly funded MCH services;
3. Program guidelines and criteria considered essential to providing effective MCH services to targeted populations;
4. Priorities for funding essential MCH services;
5. Establishing statewide outcomes that will improve the health status of mothers and children.

Membership

The MCH Advisory Task Force is comprised of 15 members, five each representing MCH professionals, MCH consumers, and Community Health Boards. Members are appointed to four-year terms.

Due to the expansive scope of maternal and child health services and the need to assure representation from key partners with specific expertise, the Task Force also has a number of ex-officio members. Currently, these members represent the Minnesota Department of Human Services, the Minnesota Department of Education, the University of Minnesota, health plans, Parent Support Organizations and the Minnesota Chapter of the March of Dimes.

Recent Accomplishments

The MCH Advisory Task Force has provided ongoing advice about issues related to the health of pregnant women and children, including children with special health needs and their families. Examples include public health home visiting, infant, child and adolescent mental health, and infant mortality in the African American and American Indian communities.

Members of the Task Force participated in the preparation of Minnesota's needs assessment for the federal Title V MCH Services Block Grant. The Task Force was also involved in the annual reporting on the block grant. This report contains information on current activities, plans for the

coming year, and data that demonstrate the progress toward federally mandated and state determined performance measures and helps to meet federal grant requirements.

Meetings and Staffing

The MCH Advisory Task Force meets four times a year and is staffed by the Community and Family Health Division. Meeting dates, times, agendas and minutes posted on the MDH website at:

<http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/fh/mchatf/meetings.html>.