

Meeting Highlights and Action Plan

Topic/ Presenter	Key Points	Action Items <i>Including Responsible Party/Timeline if applicable</i>
Attendees	Carolyn Young (Mercy Health), Elise Brown (Mercy Birthing Center), Marcy Ivory (Mercy REACH), Rani Masser (PRC), AnnMarie Schmersal (CCCHD), Angie Eberhart (Dayton Children’s), Joy Rogers (CHF), Isabel Hysing (WIC), Zahkeyah Robinson (WIC), Vince Carter (CCCHD), Dorline Lucien (CCCHD), Shelby Lowe (CAC/FCS), Caroling Quelette (CCCHD), Emily Parsons (Project Woman), Lori Lambery (CCCHD EC), Danielle Raines (HMG NFP), Jessica Jaimez , Sarah Barrett (SCSD), Rebecca Swearingne, Nikki Stefanow, Carole Cowles (FYI), Ja-Lynn Sowers (RHC), Rochelle Smith (CareSource), Natalie Driscoll (United Way), Candace Myers (Champaign Co. WIC), Sean Walton (MVCDC), Sandy Miller (CCCHD)	
Meeting start and stop time	3:00 pm, 4:00 pm	
Mission and Vision and centering moment	3:00- 3:05 AnnMarie Schmersal reviewed Start Strong mission and vision and led a one minute centering moment.	
Introductions	3:05-3:10 Brief roundtable introductions, name and affiliated organization or Start Strong role	
Mercy Health Birthing Center updates/ Elise Brown	3:20- 4:00 pm Elise, SRMC shared maternal health statistics and trends seen on the birthing unit. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2024: 1,232 babies born at SRMC in 2024. • 24.9% left the hospital exclusively breastfeeding (goal is 50%). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Improvement from the end of 2023 which was around 18% ○ Many efforts are underway to support the lactation support training of all staff and to have dedicated space for breastfeeding support. • Data on the average length of stay for newborns was presented, noting that most patients are discharged within two days, which complicates breastfeeding support. Is there a way to coordinate existing services to ensure mothers will have support following discharge? 	Please see attached slides

- Data on maternal hemorrhage rates were discussed, revealing a postpartum hemorrhage rate of 3.18% in 2024, with **various risk factors identified**. Some included things leading to **poor maternal health, such as smoking and poor nutrition**.
- New initiatives were introduced
 - **Birth tissue donation** for scheduled C section patients
 - **Nitrous oxide for pain relief during labor**.
 - **Crib-side bassinets** to allow their babies to stay close after C- section, enhancing safety and accessibility. They have two now and hope to add more soon.
- Plans to transform the current triage space into an OB ER department were discussed, aiming to provide **comprehensive care for pregnant patients**. Currently, those above 20 weeks are seen on the birthing unit.
- Ongoing postnatal health programs include home BP monitoring and discharge planning/ close follow up after discharge.
- Safe sleep initiatives:
 - **Swaddle sacks**
 - En route to attaining **Cribs for Kids Gold standard**.
 - Coming soon- a demo safe sleep environment on display
 - **Health equity and fatherhood engagement:** Hiring of a Haitian male coordinator, encourages dads to learn how to set up pack-n-play and teaches safe sleep and encourages role of father support.
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Community gaps and opportunities:

- There is a need to support the **coordination of all lactation support and strengthening the information provided in OBGYN offices**. To that end there is a current effort to hire more (increase from one care coordinator position to four positions) care coordinator/navigator to support staff support in an ONBYN practice.
- There is continued need to **increase available perinatal care providers in our community** and there was an acknowledgment that it continues to be a challenge to identify and hire suitable candidates.
- Coming soon! Mercy Health is launching a doula program with plans for a Haitian speaking doula. Doulas will follow clients during pregnancy, delivery and post delivery.
- 2024 outreach activities of the birthing unit included a community baby shower.
 - The baby shower saw an increase in participants over last year.
 - There was a reminder to please fill out the anonymous survey about your experience if your organization was represented at the event.

2025 Meeting Schedule:

April 14 at FYI (subcommittees)

May 12 at Mercy Health Birthing Center (full)- Health Equity Presentation

June 9 at CCCHD (subcommittees)

July 14 (NOTE date change) at Mercy Health Birthing Center (full)

August 18 at CCCHD (subcommittees)

September 15 at CCCHD (full)- MCO Panel Presentation

October 20 at DJFS (subcommittees)

NOV/ DEC on December 1 2:30-4pm at CCCHD (full)