

**Meeting Highlights and Action Plan**

Topic/ Presenter	Key Points	Action Items <i>Including Responsible Party/Timeline if applicable</i>
<b>Attendance</b>	AnnMarie Schmersal (CCCHD), Kris Tinklenberg (RHCHC), Marcy Ivory (REACH), Lori Lambert (CCCHD- Early Childhood), Ashley Easton (RHCHC), Gina Burke (FCFC), Rani Masser (PRC), Caroline Quelette (CCCHD), Emily Parsons (Project Woman), Robert McKinney (PRC), Vince Carter (CCCHD-Health Equity), Helaina LeCaptain (CCCHD- epidemiologist), Megan Soles (Mercy OB/GYN, SW), Gracie Hemphill (CCCHD), Candice Myers (Champaign Co. WIC), Hope Garcia (Mercy , DON, Birthing Center), Krizia Melandez (Humana), Nina Jackson (Humana), Katilyn Rader (Mercy Birthing Center), Tricia Boggs (Pediatric Associates of Springfield), Rebecca Swearingen (FYI)	
<b>Mission and Vision and centering moment</b>	3:00- 3:05 pm AnnMarie reviewed Start Strong mission and vision statement and led a one-minute wellness minute.	
<b>Introductions and updates</b>	3:05- 3: 20pm Roundtable introduction and updates. Roundtable question: If you had a million dollars to spend on infant mortality reduction, how would you spend it? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Transportation to and from prenatal appointments/classes – mentioned 4 times</li> <li>· Centering Pregnancy</li> <li>· Housing needs- mentioned 3 times</li> <li>· Provide families with safety equipment (car seats, safe sleep)- mentioned 3 times</li> <li>· Paid support/community health worker for all new moms</li> <li>· Newborn home visits</li> <li>· Targeted media and marketing campaign for African American moms that helps them connect to prenatal care and resources.</li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Meet all moms where they are – mentioned 2 times</li> <li>· Increase awareness of existing resources</li> <li>· Drug treatment programs for pregnant women</li> <li>· 24/7 hotline with texting options for prenatal and infant support, Staffed by nurses</li> <li>· Comprehensive Maternal Health Center, central location for all services</li> <li>· Supports for dads</li> <li>· Shared referral platform</li> <li>· Anything that addresses SDOH</li> </ul>	
<b>Breakout into subcommittees</b>	<p>3:20-4:00 pm Members split into work groups. Projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Fatherhood survey distribution and incentive to complete:</b> <i>Robert McKinney &amp; Vince Carter.</i> Vince shared an overview and status update of Fatherhood survey project.</li> <li>• <b>Breastfeeding Community Lactation Support group and increasing CLC certified:</b> <i>AnnMarie Schmersal, Kris Tinklenberg, Lori Lambert, Ashley Easton, Hope Garcia, Katilyn Rader, Rebecca Swearingen &amp; Tricia Boggs</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Group reviewed options for BF support group locations.</li> <li>- Location options include: Mercy, RHCHC, FYI, WIC, CCPL, Clark State</li> <li>-Current CLCs available to help: Karen G and DeShae (Mercy), Kris (RHCHC), WIC staff</li> <li>-Time: Wednesdays at noon</li> <li>-CLC class recruitment: SRMC staff, Dorline (also CHW and HC fluent), CCPL staff. Work group concluded most women would be uncomfortable with a male CLC.</li> <li>-Health Equity: St. Theresa Catholic Church has a large Hispanic population if sessions will be available in Spanish</li> <li>-Marketing: MomCo, SS distribution list</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Community Engagement Work Group:</b> <i>Gracie Hemphill, Marcy Ivory, Nina Jackson, Gina Burke, Rani Masser, Caroline Quelette, Emily Parsons, Helaina LeCaptain, Megan Soles, Krizia Melandez</i> <u>Project:</u> Adding a category to <b>Best of Springfield</b> to encourage breastfeeding/ family friendly work environments. Group discussion brought hence the following questions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Do private businesses have wellness programs?</li> <li>-How do businesses get branded as best workplaces?</li> <li>-Environmental scan- survey to distribute to private businesses.</li> <li>- Maternal Health- postpartum and MH days allowed/ types of leave. How many businesses have a resource fair for employees?</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Community Events</b> a Start Strong member can attend</li> </ul>	<p>[ ] Gina Burke- contact Chamber of Commerce regarding family friendly workplaces [ ] AnnMarie will reach out to Dorline Lucien CCCHD and CCPL</p> <p>[ ] Gracie Hemphill- Tablecloth for Start Strong [ ] Caroline Quelette &amp; AnnMarie Schmersal: Start Strong poster for events</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Promise Fest 9/13</li> <li>-Loving Our Community 9/20</li> <li>-Obtaining <b>community input</b> at events- Gina will utilize sticky notes at upcoming SS 101 event</li> </ul> <p>Drafted adjustments for 2026-2028: Health Equity and Fatherhood will be embedded into all pillars</p> <p>Committee/ Pillar #1 Preterm Birth Prevention</p> <p>Committee/ Pillar #2 Community Engagement/ Awareness</p> <p>Committee/ Pillar #3: Breastfeeding and Safe Sleep</p> <p>Committee/ Pillar #4: Teen Pregnancy (will meet at a different time and date from Start Strong meetings)</p>	
	<p>SS Meetings:</p> <p>September 15 at CCCHD (full)- MCO Panel Presentation,</p> <p>October 20 at DJFS (subcommittees) ,</p> <p>NOV/ DEC on December 1 2:30-4pm at CCCHD (full) EFNEP cooking demo, CHA presentation, DRAFT 2026-2026 Start Strong Strategic Plan</p>	