SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, January 4, 2026
Virtual Zoom Meeting
Anchor Site: 1351 W. North Street, Suite 103 Dover, DE 19904

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Dr. Julius Mullen
Dr. Garrett Colmorgen
Jennifer Pulcinella
Michelle Statham, DSHA
Ifunanya Ifezulike, AmeriHealth Caritas
Lisa Savino
Cynthia Guy
Erin Nescott
Emily Haas Katzen
Jaqueline. Corbin Armstrong
Sara Paris

DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH PRESENT:

Dr. Naa Dede Hesse

DRAFT

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Ray Fitzgerald Co-Chair

Number of public members in attendance: 0. Full sign-in list stored with DPH meeting records.

TOPIC	FINDINGS, CONCLUSIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	STATUS	ACTIONS & FOLLOW-UP
I. Call to Order	Dr. Julius Mullen called the meeting to order at 10:05 AM and welcomed members to the meeting and reminded members of the ground rules and urged the members participation. Michelle Statham introduced Vivian Wiggins, the new supportive housing liaison, who joined the team to focus on DHMIC and social determinants of health.	Dr. Julius Mullen, Co-Chair	Resolved	No further action required.
II. Approval of Minutes	Dr. Mullen asked for a motion to approve the March 5, 2026 minutes. A motion was moved by Michelle Statham and seconded by Erin Nescott. Minutes were approved.	Dr. Julious Mullen, Co-Chair	Resolved	No further action required.

III. Update on Transportation and Food Data Research	The meeting focused on reviewing data about transportation and food access as social drivers of maternal health in Delaware. Vik from DPH provided PRAMS data showing significant disparities in food access between different racial and ethnic groups, with Black non-Hispanic and Hispanic communities being particularly affected. The data confirmed that both transportation and food access needs are valid concerns, with Hispanic populations showing the highest impact in transportation-related barriers. Ana presented research on food insecurity in Delaware, highlighting high numbers of food-insecure children and details about the Delaware Food Pharmacy pilot program for maternal health.	Dr. Julius Mullen, Co-Chair	Resolved	No further action required.
IV. Update Transportation List	Ana shared an updated transportation tracker for pregnant women that includes organization details, eligibility requirements, and service access information, which will be added to DPH's resource list for the Well Women Committee.	Dr. Julius Mullen, Co-Chair	Resolved	No further action required.
IV Medicaid Transportation Research Next Steps	SDoH Committee members focused on Medicaid transportation coverage limitations, where CMS confirmed that coverage applies only to the individual receiving medical services, not additional passengers. Jennifer emphasized the need for children to be able to accompany parents to appointments, highlighting practical challenges with public transportation and the need for funding solutions. The discussion concluded with consideration of advocacy approaches, including potential recommendations to adjust Medicaid transportation regulations and seeking support from congresspeople or senators to address the funding gap for transporting children with their parents. The committee discussed challenges around transportation and healthcare access for pregnant women in Delaware, particularly in southern regions. Key issues identified included lack of childcare supervision at medical offices, limited pediatrician availability, and insurance barriers for transporting pregnant women. The group agreed on several action items: The next meeting was scheduled for September 3rd.	Dr. Julius Mullen, Co-Chair	Resolved	Erin will research existing transportation programs that could be duplicated, Ana will investigate national transportation and food assistance programs for pregnant mothers, and the committee will invite representatives from organizations like La Esperanza and Sussex Health Coalition to share their experiences addressing similar challenges.

Minutes prepared by: Ana Bueno
Minutes reviewed by: Dr. J Mullen
Minutes reviewed and submitted by: Dr. J Mullen
Minutes approved by: Pending next quarterly meeting

2026 Meetings

Thursday, September 3, 2026 and Thursday, November 5, 2026