

Midwifery Working Group

Friday, September 26, 2025 | 9:00-10:00am

Meeting Minutes

Members present: Anna Cobler, Dante Costa, Kara Crawford, Christy D'Aquila, SciHonor Devotion, Carolyn Greenfield, Dawn Havener, Richard Jennings, Selina Osei, Amy Romano, Sabrina Selk, Daileann Hemmings.

Members absent: Cynthia Bean, Lucinda Canty, Camille Grant, Shayna LaFlam, Christina Mukon, Kim Sandor, Kathrine Villeda, Fatmata Williams.

Introduction

- Dante Costa called the meeting to order at 9:05am.
- Newly appointed members introduced themselves to the group and shared their background in maternal health.
- The June 27 minutes were revised to reflect a corrected attendance. Kara Crawford motioned to approve the minutes as amended, and Dawn Havener seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Election of Chair(s)

- Dante acknowledged the leadership of Sarah, the group's prior chair.
- Dante highlighted the role that the chair or chairs of the group play, and the supporting role that DPH can provide.
- Amy Romano emphasized the importance of having a homebirth midwife chair the group. Gengi Proteau suggested that if there are two-chairs, at least one should be a homebirth midwife, and if there are three candidates, then two of the three should be homebirth midwives.
- Daileann Hemmings motioned to vote on the number of co-chairs and Amy Romano seconded.

Votes	Vote totals
Two co-chairs: Carolyn Greenfield, Selina O'Sei, Amy Romano, Daileann Hemmings, Richard Jennings.	Three co-chairs: 7 Two co-chairs: 5

Three co-chairs: Dawn Havener, Anna Cobler, Kara Crawford, Christy D'Aquila, Sabrina Selk, Gengi Proteau, SciHonor Devotion.	
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- Dante invited members to nominate themselves or others to be chair.
 - Christy and Dawn nominated Gengi Proteau.
 - Kara and Dawn nominated SciHonor Devotion.
 - Gengi and Anna nominated Kara Crawford.
 - Gengi nominated Christy D'Aquila.
 - SciHonor and Christy nominated Anna Cobler.

Candidates:

- Gengi Proteau, Kara Crawford, Anna Cobler, Christy D'Aquila, SciHonor Devotion

Votes

Member Name and Record of Votes (Max 3 People)	Vote totals
<u>Amy</u> : SciHonor, Gengi, Kara	Kara: 9
<u>Anna</u> : SciHonor, Kara, Christy	SciHonor: 8
<u>Carolyn</u> : Abstained	Gengi: 8
<u>Christy</u> : Kara, Anna, Gengi	Anna: 3
<u>Dawn</u> : SciHonor, Gengi, Kara	Christy: 2
<u>Gengi</u> : Kara, Christy, SciHonor	
<u>Kara</u> : SciHonor, Gengi, Anna	
<u>Richard</u> : SciHonor, Gengi, Kara	
<u>Sabrina</u> : SciHonor, Gengi, Kara	
<u>SciHonor</u> : Gengi, Kara, Anna	
<u>Selina</u> : Gengi, Kara, SciHonor	

Dr. Osei: Discussion of Bracelet Initiative

- Selina Osei shared information on the Connecticut Urgent Maternal Warning Signs Bracelet Initiative. She framed the project as an opportunity for providers in hospital settings, providers in community settings, and emergency responders to collaborate on one initiative supporting the care of birthing persons.
 - Information about the Initiative: <https://cthosp.org/connecticut-urgent-maternal-warning-signs-bracelet-initiative/>
- She shared that the goal is to make sure every birthing person is given a bracelet if they want it, and to make sure providers are trained about the early warning signs of urgent maternal health conditions. At the kickoff event, the organizers plan to

distribute bracelets to hospitals and provider groups. Dr. Osei will connect with the newly elected chairs of the midwifery working group to liaise between the Connecticut Perinatal Quality Collaborative (CPQC) and the larger group of midwives practicing in the state.

- Kickoff information: <https://cthosp.org/event/connecticut-urgent-maternal-warning-signs-bracelet-initiative-kickoff-event/>

DPH EHDI Follow-up

- John Lamb and Mitchel Jobble shared an update from a prior conversation with the working group on lack of access to hearing screening equipment. The Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Program (EHDI) may be able to purchase one portable hearing screening machine, to be used by homebirth midwives in the state.
- The EHDI team posed a few questions to the group about any equipment they may currently use, if they have ever shared equipment, to confirm interest in a hearing screening machine, and get a sense of how midwives might transport and share a portable machine. They also asked the group if members had a brand preference for an OAE screener.
- The midwives indicated that they would need more than one piece of equipment in order to best serve their community. EHDI staff will provide the questions they have in writing, so that midwives can discuss their needs and preferences and come back to EHDI with more information.

Discussion of Maternal Health Task Force

- Dante Costa shared that there are no new updates at the moment.

2025 Annual Report

- Dante reminded the group that the group is statutorily required to produce a report each year. The report is not a DPH report, it is the group members report to the DPH Commissioner and to the public health committee of the legislature.
- Melia and Dante will review meeting minutes to recap what the group has done over the past year for the purposes of the report.
- Group members also need to decide if they wish to continue the group in 2026, to be voted on in the next two months.

Future Topics

- Amy Romano shared information on consensus guidelines for intermittent auscultation.
- Amy shared the following resources:

- New Consensus Guidelines for Intermittent Auscultation in U.S. Community Birth <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/birt.70002>
- NACPM webinar to review the guidelines and offer a Q&A with the guideline authors on Monday, September 29. Register here: <https://www.nacpm.org/events/live-qampa-webinar-consensus-guidelines-for-intermittent-auscultation-in-us-community-birth-settings>

Closing

- The November meeting is currently scheduled for the day after Thanksgiving. DPH will send out a form via email to suggest some alternate times, if members are interested in rescheduling the November meeting.
- The meeting adjourned at 9:58am.
- The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, October 24.