

# MCH Advisory Task Force Sunset Extension

## Background

The Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Advisory Task Force was authorized under M.S. 145.881. Extending the task force would allow

- 1) The Commissioner of Health to continue to obtain valuable guidance and advice on public health issues that impact the maternal and child health populations, especially those at highest risk for poor health outcomes.
- 2) Minnesota to meet federal requirements related to public input in the federal MCH Block Grant application and report.
- 3) Consumer, provider and local public health input in supporting the federally required five year 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. Legislation directs the task force 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 (M.S. 145A.02). Members are appointed by the Commissioner of Health 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 Partners, Medica, and the Minnesota Chapter of the March of Dimes.

## Recent Accomplishments

The MCH Advisory Task Force provides advice and guidance to the Commissioner of Health and MDH staff on a number of issues related to children and families. Recent examples included infant, child and adolescent mental health, infant mortality in the African American and American Indian communities, early childhood autism spectrum disorder and newborn screening.

Members of the Task Force participated in the preparation of Minnesota's 2010 needs assessment for the federal MCH Block Grant. The Task Force also provides information for the MCH Block Grant annual report and application. These reports contain information on current activities, plans for the next year, and data that demonstrate the progress toward federally mandated and state determined performance measures.

## Meetings and Staffing

The MCH Advisory Task Force meets four times a year. Meeting dates, times, agendas and minutes posted on the MDH website at:

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



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