Howard County LHIC
Local Health Improvement Coalition

HOWARD COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

8930 Stanford Blvd | Columbia, MD 21045
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Antigone R. Vickery, MPH, Interim Health Officer

Howard County Local Health Improvement Coalition (HCLHIC): Growing Healthy Families (GHF) Workgroup Meeting Agenda

Date: November 18, 2026

Time: 2:00 – 3:00 pm

Location: Zoom

Growing Healthy Families Co-chairs: Samantha Cribbs and Erica Taylor

2. Meeting Purpose:

The purpose of this Growing Healthy Families (GHF) meeting is to provide coalition members with information about resources and services offered by The Parents' Place of Maryland to support children and families, discuss planning and collaboration opportunities for the 2027 Black Maternal Health Week event, and share updates and announcements that promote maternal, infant, and family health and well-being in Howard County.

3. Agenda Items

2:00 – 2:10 Welcome and Introductions

Stephanie Foster,
Community Engagement Coordinator,
Howard County Health Department,
Local Health Improvement Coalition (LHIC)

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2:10 – 2:30 A Parents' Place of Maryland Presentation

Julie Bertling,
Family Partner - Behavioral Health Specialist,
The Parents' Place of Maryland

2:30 – 2:50 2027 Black Maternal Health Week Event Discussion

Samantha Cribbs, Co-Chair,
Maternal & Infant Health Program Supervisor,
Bureau of Family Health Services,
Howard County Health Department

2:50 – 3:00 Announcements & Wrap-Up

Stephanie Foster,
Community Engagement Coordinator,
Howard County Health Department,
Local Health Improvement Coalition (LHIC)

4. Growing Healthy Families Workgroup FY26-28 Goals:

- **Goal 1.** Improve health outcomes for Black/African American infants and mothers through improved maternal care before, during and after pregnancy.
    - **Objective 1.1.** - By June 2028, increase awareness of educational and other resources available to Black/African-American mothers and infants in Howard County.
    - **Objective 1.2.** - By June 2028, increase awareness of doula services as a potential alternative or in conjunction with traditional hospital care.

- **Goal 2.** Enhance equitable access to healthcare by expanding awareness of affordable health coverage, community health services, and transportation assistance, while also improving opportunities for prenatal care and nutrition education for all women in Howard County.
    - **Objective 2.1.** - By June 2028, collaborate with the Growing Healthy Families workgroup members to increase awareness of affordable healthcare coverage, availability of community health centers, and information about transportation assistance to health care facilities.

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- **Objective 2.2.** - By June 2028, collaborate with workgroup members to increase opportunities to access affordable prenatal care and nutrition education for all women.

- **Goal 3.** Engage community members in women and maternal health activities by increasing awareness of culturally appropriate and inclusive opportunities to improve access to healthcare.
  - **Objective 3.1**. - By June 2028, enhance awareness, access to affordable healthcare and well-being for all women in Howard County by creating tools to support women in the community.
  - **Objective 3.2.** - By June 2028, expand engagement opportunities to improve physical and mental health and social engagement among all women in the community.