

## Minutes: Health Services Advisory Council

Date: December 10th ,2025 5:30 - 7:30PM

### Attendance

#### Council Members:

- Claudia Thomas
- Rakesh John
- Samba Fall
- Rosilynn Morris
- Scott Hegstad
- Daniel Stein
- Bimaje Apka

#### DHS Staff

- Nate Chomillo
- Megan Warfield Kimball
- Caralyn Schnick
- Liz Gipson
- Matt Vierzba

#### Guests

- Elora Riggs Lyksett
- Michelle Cheizah
- Shonette Micco

### Welcome

- Called to order 5:33 PM
- Cara Schnick welcomed attendees and led introductions.

### Housekeeping

- March minutes approved, motion made by Scott Hegstad, seconded by Claudia Thomas, approved by council.
- October minutes approved, motion made by Scott Hegstad, seconded by Claudia Thomas, approved by council.
- Cara called for volunteers for Council Chair, Samba Fall volunteered, council voted unanimously to confirm.

## Portable Cribs and Car Seat Coverage

### Presentation led by Matt Vierzba and Megan Warfield Kimball

- Provided summary of medical necessity, what federal coverage includes, explained this would need to be state only coverage, and how a proposed payment structure
- The presentation then focused on car seats educating on the types of car seats available on the market, and what is most common to cover with managed care organization voucher programs.
  - Shonnette Micco – representing the Child Passenger Safety Program at the Minnesota Department of Public Safety, presented on car seat safety, injury prevention, Minnesota laws regarding car seats and current relevant data.

- The presentation then discussed portable cribs, current coverage of enclosed beds, relayed no current programs for managed care vouchers, and the tie between having a safe place to sleep for infants and SUIDS.
  - Michelle Chiezah, the Infant Health and Mortality Reduction Specialist at the Minnesota Department of Health provided a summary of safe sleep practices and education, as well as current trends and related data.

## Discussion

Discussion centered around scientific evidence relating to lack of access to a crib being associated with an increase in SUIDs. Scientific Journals and articles were shared via Webex chat. Including ‘Evaluation of bedtime basics for babies: a national crib distribution program to reduce the risk of sleep-related sudden infant deaths<sup>1</sup>, ‘A Call to Action: Addressing Socioeconomic Disparities in Childhood Unintentional Injury Risk.<sup>2</sup>’ And [a link](#) for the Star Legacy Foundation.

## Voting and recommendations

- 1) Are Car seats medically necessary – **unanimous yes**
- 2) Are portable cribs medically necessary – **unanimous yes**
- 3) Do you recommend DHS propose legislation to cover portable cribs and car seats
  - a. Car seats only
  - b. Cribs only
  - c. **Yes, Both – won by majority**
- 4) Do you recommend DHS cover one convertible car seat over the child’s lifetime or more than one seat?
  - a. Convertible
  - b. **More than one – won by majority**

## Conclusion + Adjournment

- Next meeting date/time: March 11th, 2026
- Next meeting tentative agenda – Enclosed bed
- Meeting adjourned at 7:16pm

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<sup>1</sup> Hauck FR, Tanabe KO, McMurry T, Moon RY. Evaluation of bedtime basics for babies: a national crib distribution program to reduce the risk of sleep-related sudden infant deaths. *J Community Health*. 2015 Jun;40(3):457-63. doi: 10.1007/s10900-014-9957-0. PMID: 25331608; PMCID: PMC4405482.

<sup>2</sup> Joanna S. Cohen, Mary Beth Howard, Eileen M. McDonald, Leticia Manning Ryan; A Call to Action: Addressing Socioeconomic Disparities in Childhood Unintentional Injury Risk. *Pediatrics* April 2024; 153 (4): e2023063445. 10.1542/peds.2023-063445