



## State of New Jersey

PHILIP D. MURPHY  
*Governor*

NEW JERSEY MATERNAL AND INFANT HEALTH INNOVATION AUTHORITY  
P. O. Box 101  
TRENTON, NEW JERSEY 08608-0101

TAHESHA L. WAY  
*Lt. Governor*

Lisa A. Asare  
*President & CEO*

### NEW JERSEY MATERNAL AND INFANT HEALTH INNOVATION AUTHORITY

#### BOARD MEETING AGENDA

WEDNESDAY, September 24, 2025

10:00AM

[https://www.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN\\_Vw\\_PMaUSRzeJVqA\\_Sdo1Sw](https://www.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_Vw_PMaUSRzeJVqA_Sdo1Sw)

- I. Call to Order
- II. Open Public Meetings Act Statement
- III. Roll Call
- IV. Update from Chair
  - a. Approved MCQC Meeting Minutes May 30, 2025
- V. CEO's Report to Board
  - a. Report on MCQC Recommendations by Pamela Taylor, Maternal Care Quality Collaborative Program Manager
- VI. Matters Requiring Board Action
  - a. Approval of NJMIHIA Board Minutes of June 25, 2025.
  - b. Approval of Resolution Authorizing the Approval of Memorandum of Understanding between NJMIHIA and New Jersey Division of Labor and Workforce Development for Effective Engagement of Parents in New Jersey in Taking Advantage of Temporary Disability and Family Leave Insurance.
- VII. Executive Session (If required)
- VIII. Public Comment
- IX. Other Business
- X. Meeting Adjournment



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## NEW JERSEY MATERNAL CARE QUALITY COLLABORATIVE BOARD MEETING

### Minutes of the Meeting May 30, 2025

Minutes of the meeting of the New Jersey Maternal Care Quality Collaborative (“MCQC”) held virtually on Friday, May 30, 2025, at 10:00 AM Eastern Standard Time.

#### MEMBERS OF THE BOARD IN ATTENDANCE

##### Ex-officio Members

Stephanie Mozgai, Deputy Commissioner of Health Systems in the Department of Health

Kelly Anderson Thomas, representing Deputy Commissioner of Public Health Services in the Department of Health

Amanda Medina Forrester, Director of the Office of Minority and Multicultural Health in the Department of Health

Vineeta Kapahi, representing Director of the Division of Medical Assistance and Health Services in the Department of Human Services

Michael Fahncke, Assistant Commissioner of Health and Life Insurance Plans in the Department of Banking and Insurance

Jordan Mustafa, representing Director of the New Jersey Maternal Data Center in the Department of Health

Lisa Asare, Chair of NJMCQC, President and CEO of NJMIHIA

##### Public Members

Linda Schwimmer, representing New Jersey Health Care Quality Institute

Mary McTigue, representing Catholic HealthCare Partnership of New Jersey

Susanne Sernal, representing Hospital Alliance of New Jersey

James Darley, representing Fair Share Hospitals Collaborative

Julie Blumenfeld, representing New Jersey Affiliate of the American College of Nurse Midwives

Myriam Mondestin, M.D.,<sup>1</sup> representing New Jersey Medical Society

Shital Patel, M.D., representing Horizon Blue, the second of two medical directors of health plans in the State, as recommended to the commissioner by the President of the New Jersey Association of Health Plans

Liliana Morales, representing New Jersey Section of the Association of Women's Health Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses

Rahbbee Norton-Lee, representing New Jersey Affiliate of Planned Parenthood

Marilyn Rivera-Cintrón, representing New Jersey Primary Care Association

Mariekarl Vilceus-Talty <sup>1</sup> , representing Partnership for Maternal and Child Health of Northern New Jersey
Robyn D'Oria, representing Central Jersey Family Health Consortium
Helen Hannigan, representing Southern New Jersey Perinatal Cooperative
Kimberly Birdsall, representing Health Coalition of Passaic County, one of four existing Regional Health Hubs or any successor organization to that Regional Health Hub
Natasha Dravid, representing Camden Coalition, number two of four existing Regional Health Hubs or any successor organization to that Regional Health Hub
Nastassia Harris <sup>1</sup> , representing Perinatal Health Equity Initiative
Tonique Griffin, Public Member who is engaged in maternal health advocacy
Rose-Anne Uwague, Public Member who has personal experience in receiving perinatal services in one of the 10 New Jersey municipalities with the highest infant mortality rates in the State
Lisa Gittens-Williams, M.D., Public Member who has expertise in maternal or infant health workforce development or graduate health education
Erica Pulliam <sup>1</sup> , Public Member who has expertise in behavioral health
Jaye Madden-Wilson, Public Member who is engaged in healthcare consumer advocacy

## ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES

Lauren Lalicon, Policy Director, Office of the First Lady  
 Michael Eleneski, Associate Counsel, Office of the Governor, Authorities Unit  
 Roza Dabaghyan, Deputy Attorney General, Department of Law and Public Safety, Division of Law  
 Eric Carlsson, Chief Financial Officer, NJ Maternal and Infant Health Innovation Authority  
 Laura Wilton, Chief of Corporate Governance, NJ Maternal and Infant Health Innovation Authority  
 Catherine Terrero, Executive Assistant, NJ Maternal and Infant Health Innovation Authority  
 Cindy Cortez, Administrative Assistant, NJ Maternal and Infant Health Innovation Authority  
 Myrna Rivera, Agency Management Analyst, NJ Maternal and Infant Health Innovation Authority  
 Pamela Taylor, Senior Advisor, NJ Maternal and Infant Health Innovation Authority  
 Sofia Bonsignore, Governor's Fellow, NJ Maternal and Infant Health Innovation Authority

Chair Lisa Asare presided over the meeting with Cindy Cortez keeping the minutes.

Chair Asare called the meeting to order and announced that Maternal Care Quality Collaborative (MCQC) was in compliance with the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act and the adequate notice of the meeting had been provided in the manner prescribed by law.

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<sup>1</sup> Dr. Myriam Mondestin, Mariekarl Vilceus-Talty, Nastassia Harris, and Erica Pulliam missed the roll call but joined the meeting prior to the consideration of matters requiring action.

## **Chair update**

Chair Asare addressed the Board and introduced the new MCQC logo, which will soon appear on the MCQC section of the MIHIA website. She also shared recent updates, highlighting MIHIA's coordination of MCQC work group meetings over the past several months. Each group has met at least twice to develop recommendations aimed at guiding MIHIA Board decisions and shaping programming at the Maternal and Infant Health Innovation Center (MIHIC).

Pamela Taylor, Senior Advisor to MIHIA, provided a progress update on the five MCQC work groups: Clinical Best Practices, Innovation, Perinatal Workforce, Emerging Issues, and Health-Related Social Needs. She explained that each group, organized around a core focus area, used survey feedback and structured brainstorming to generate ideas, which were then evaluated using a standardized matrix measuring effectiveness, feasibility, timeline, and cost. The groups are currently finalizing their recommendations through follow-up surveys. MIHIA will host review meetings in July to determine which proposals move forward. Final recommendations will be brought to the full MCQC for a vote before advancing to the MIHIA Board for consideration.

Chair Asare also informed the Board that the meeting originally scheduled for August 29 has been rescheduled to Friday, August 15. The revised meeting will include a vote on the work group recommendations, which will then be presented to the full MIHIA Board during its meeting on August 27.

Finally, Chair Asare welcomed Dr. Sanjana Shah from the Department of Children and Families, who delivered a presentation on Family Connects New Jersey, the state's universal postpartum nurse home visiting program.

## **Matters Requiring Board Action**

### **a. Approval of February 28, 2025, Revised Meeting Minutes.**

A motion to approve the revised meeting minutes was made by Public Member, Robin D'Oria. Suzanne Sernal, Public Member, seconded the motion. Four members abstained from the vote: Stephanie Mozgai, Mary McTigue, Rahbbee Norton-Lee, and Marilyn Rivera-Cintron. The remaining members voted in favor. The motion carried.

### **b. Vote for Vice-Chair.**

Helen Hannigan received fourteen votes. Michelle Gabriel-Caldwell received eight votes. Three members abstained from the vote: Vineeta Kapahi, Rahbbee Norton-Lee, and Kimberly Birdsall. Chair Asare congratulated Helen Hannigan on her election as the new MCQC Vice-Chair.

## **Other Business**

No new business presented.

**Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

**Executive Session**

There was no Executive Session.

**Adjournment**

Chair Asare requested a motion to adjourn. James Darley, Public Member, made the motion to adjourn. Jaye Madden-Wilson, Public Member, seconded the motion.

I hereby certify this to be a true and original copy of the May 30, 2025, New Jersey Maternal Care Quality Collaborative Board meeting minutes.

*Lisa Asare*

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Lisa Asare,  
President and CEO.



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## NEW JERSEY MATERNAL AND INFANT HEALTH INNOVATION AUTHORITY BOARD MEETING

### Minutes of the Meeting June 25, 2025

Minutes of the virtual meeting of the New Jersey Maternal and Infant Health Innovation Authority (MIHIA) held on Wednesday, June 25, 2025, at 10:00 AM Daylight Savings Time.

#### MEMBERS OF THE BOARD IN ATTENDANCE

##### Ex-officio Members

Jeff Brown, Acting Commissioner of Health, MIHIA Vice-Chair

Tara Colton, representing CEO of NJEDA

Sarah Adelman, Commissioner of Human Services

Dawn Thomas, representing Commissioner of Banking and Insurance

Katherine Stoehr, representing Commissioner of Children and Families

Dr. Tamika Quick, representing Secretary of Higher Education

Holly Low, representing Commissioner of Labor

##### Public Members

Barbara George Johnson, Chair of NJMIHIA

Andrea Martinez-Mejia

Dr. Damali Campbell-Oparaji <sup>1</sup>

Shakira Abdul-Ali

Maritza Raimundi-Petroski

Dr. Philip Bonaparte

Rosalee Boyer

<sup>1</sup> Dr. Damali Campbell-Oparaji missed the roll call but joined the meeting prior to the consideration of matters requiring action.

## **ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES**

Lisa Asare, President & CEO, New Jersey Maternal and Infant Health Innovation Authority  
Stephanie Lagos, Chief of Staff, Office of the First Lady  
Lauren Lalicon, Policy Director, Office of the First Lady  
Michael Eleneski, Associate Counsel, Office of the Governor, Authorities Unit  
Roza Dabaghyan, Deputy Attorney General, Department of Law and Public Safety, Division of Law  
Laura Wilton, Chief of Corporate Governance, NJ Maternal and Infant Health Innovation Authority  
Maria Del Cid-Kosso, Director of Policy and External Affairs, NJ Maternal and Infant Health Innovation Authority  
Catherine Terrero, Executive Assistant, NJ Maternal and Infant Health Innovation Authority  
Cindy Cortez, Administrative Assistant, NJ Maternal and Infant Health Innovation Authority  
Pamela Taylor, Senior Advisor, NJ Maternal and Infant Health Innovation Authority  
Sofia Bonsignore, Governor's Fellow, NJ Maternal and Infant Health Innovation Authority

Chair Barbara George Johnson presided over the meeting with Cindy Cortez keeping the minutes.

President & CEO Asare called the meeting to order and announced that the Maternal and Infant Health Innovation Authority (MIHIA) was in compliance with the provisions of Open Public Meetings Act and that adequate notice of the meeting had been provided in the manner prescribed by law.

President & CEO Asare took roll call and welcomed representatives from the First Lady's Office, Governor's Authorities Unit, the Attorney General's Office, and the Center for Health Care Strategies (CHCS).

### **Chair update**

Chair Barbara George Johnson addressed the Board and advised that the next Maternal Care Quality Collaborative (MCQC) meeting will be held on August 15, 2025.

Chair George Johnson welcomed MIHIA's new Vice-Chair, Department of Health (DOH) Acting Commissioner Jeff Brown. Vice-Chair Brown addressed the Board, reaffirming the DOH's strong commitment to maternal and infant health, including the development of the MIHIA Model of Care and support for the perinatal workforce through the NJ Doula Learning Collaborative (NJDLC). He expressed enthusiasm for advancing this important work in partnership with the Board.

### **President & CEO Statement**

President & CEO Asare addressed the Board, welcoming MIHIA's new Vice-Chair, Acting Commissioner Jeff Brown, along with MIHIA's newest team member, Maria Del Cid-Kosso, Director of External Affairs and Policy. Maria shared brief remarks, expressing her

enthusiasm for collaborating with the Board and leveraging their expertise to advance policies that make New Jersey a safer and more equitable state for Black and Brown mothers to give birth.

President & CEO Asare provided the Board with updates on several key initiatives, including MIHIA's recent community engagement efforts, the upcoming July groundbreaking of the Maternal and Infant Health Innovation Center, progress on the development of a New Jersey-specific doula curriculum, and the state's advancements in expanding access to paid family leave. She also highlighted the ongoing work of the Maternal Care Quality Collaborative (MCQC), noting that work group recommendations will soon be submitted to the Board for review.

President & CEO Asare also shared findings from two newly released reports by the Rutgers School of Public Health: *"Progress in Reducing the Low-Risk Cesarean Birth Rate in NJ (2016–2023)"* and *"Following the Science,"* which analyzes more than 70 maternal health policies enacted during the Murphy Administration.

During the discussion, Public Member Dr. Campbell-Oparaji noted that not all Nulliparous, Term, Singleton, Vertex (NTSV) births are inherently low-risk and expressed concern that frontline clinicians are often left managing the consequences of incomplete public understanding. In response, President & CEO Asare suggested that the MCQC Clinical Work Group consider developing a public messaging strategy to address misconceptions surrounding cesarean births.

Lastly, President & CEO Asare shared that MIHIA has engaged the Center for Health Care Strategies (CHCS) to support the development of its strategic plan. CHCS is a national nonprofit with 30+ years of experience advancing health equity and Medicaid innovation. President & CEO Asare invited Kamala Allen, CHCS Vice President, to present to the Board.

Kamala Allen presented to the Board and provided a brief overview of its role in supporting NJMIHIA's strategic planning process. As NJMIHIA continues to evolve as a start-up entity, it also carries the responsibility of sustaining the mission of Nurture NJ. While there has already been significant activity and impact, CHCS emphasized the importance of a structured strategic process, centered on four key pillars: alignment, activation, accountability, and assessment of progress and impact.

Kamala also highlighted the importance of cross-sector collaboration in driving innovation and supporting NJMIHIA's continued development. As a strategic partner, CHCS will offer organizational development support to ensure the successful execution of NJMIHIA's strategic plan. The process will be co-designed and co-developed in partnership with NJMIHIA leadership and stakeholders.

During the discussion, Public Member Shakira Abdul-Ali inquired about the various planning teams that will be engaged in the strategic planning process and requested examples of similar projects previously completed by CHCS. Public Member Andrea Martinez-Mejia expressed her appreciation and enthusiasm for MIHIA's dedication to



establishing a strong and sustainable Authority. Holly Low, representing Commissioner of Labor, inquired about the status of the Community Advisory Committee (CAC) and how community voices will be incorporated into the strategic planning process. President & CEO Asare responded that, while the CAC has not yet been formally established, MIHIA plans to partner with the Watson Institute to ensure meaningful engagement with Trenton families throughout the process.

## **Matters Requiring Board Action**

### **a. Approval of Minutes of March 26, 2025.**

A motion was made to approve the meeting minutes of March 26, 2025, by Public Member, Shakira Abdul-Ali, and was seconded by Public Member, Andrea Martinez-Mejia. Vice-Chair Jeff Brown abstained. Remaining members voted in favor. The motion carried.

### **b. Approval of Resolution Authorizing the Approval of Memorandum of Understanding between NJEDA and NJMIHIA for the Development of the MIHIC.**

A motion was made to approve the Board meeting dates by Public Member, Dr. Philip Bonaparte, and was seconded by Vice-Chair Jeff Brown. All members voted in favor. The motion carried.

## **Executive Session**

There was no Executive Session.

## **Public Comment**

There was no Public Comment.

## **Other Business**

There was no Other Business.

## **Adjournment**

Chair Barbara George Johnson requested a motion to adjourn. Public Member, Andrea Martinez-Mejia made the motion to adjourn. Public Member, Shakira Abdul-Ali, seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned.

I hereby certify this to be a true and original copy of the June 25, 2025, New Jersey Maternal and Infant Health Innovation Authority Board meeting minutes.

Lisa Asare

Lisa Asare,  
President and CEO

**RESOLUTION OF THE NEW JERSEY  
MATERNAL AND INFANT HEALTH INNOVATION AUTHORITY  
AUTHORIZING A MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT  
BETWEEN  
THE MATERNAL AND INFANT HEALTH INNOVATION AUTHORITY AND  
THE NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND WORKFORCE  
DEVELOPMENT  
TO EFFECTIVELY ENGAGE PARENTS IN NEW JERSEY IN TAKING ADVANTAGE  
OF TEMPORARY DISABILITY & FAMILY LEAVE INSURANCE**

ADOPTED  
September 24, 2025

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Maternal Infant Health Innovation Authority (“NJMIHIA”) was created pursuant to N.J.S.A. 26:18-17 *et seq* (the “Act”) and was created and established in, but not of, the Department of the Treasury and independent of any supervision or control by the principal departments of the Executive Branch of the State Government; and

WHEREAS, NJMIHIA was created to reduce maternal mortality, morbidity and racial and ethnic disparities in maternal and infant health outcomes in the State; and

WHEREAS, access to Temporary Disability and Family Leave Insurance for pregnant women/birthing parents and their partners has many benefits, including supporting breastfeeding initiation and duration, increased engagement with postpartum care, and reduced risk of postpartum depression: and

WHEREAS, there is continued evidence that awareness and access gaps persist among certain populations, particularly workers of color and immigrant workers; and

WHEREAS, the Board has determined that it is in the best interest of MIHIA to effectively engage and educate fathers/non-birthing parents, mothers/birthing parents, and non-English speaking parents in New Jersey with a key focus on Atlantic County and Mercer County, in accessing and applying for Temporary Disability & Family Leave Insurance; and

WHEREAS, MIHIA and NJDOL seek to enter into an MOU to document the

**RESOLUTION OF THE NEW JERSEY  
MATERNAL AND INFANT HEALTH INNOVATION AUTHORITY  
AUTHORIZING A MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT  
BETWEEN  
THE MATERNAL AND INFANT HEALTH INNOVATION AUTHORITY AND  
THE NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND WORKFORCE  
DEVELOPMENT  
TO EFFECTIVELY ENGAGE PARENTS IN NEW JERSEY IN TAKING ADVANTAGE  
OF TEMPORARY DISABILITY & FAMILY LEAVE INSURANCE**

ADOPTED  
September 24, 2025

mutual understanding of a comprehensive effort to engage and educate parents in accessing and applying for Temporary Disability & Family Leave Insurance and detail their respective obligations as set forth in the MOU attached hereto as Exhibit A.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board, that,

1. The Board authorizes the execution of the MOU between MIHIA and NJDOL, attached hereto as Exhibit A.
  
2. This resolution shall take effect immediately, but no action authorized herein shall have force and effect until 10 days, after a copy of the minutes of the Authority meeting at which this resolution was adopted has been delivered to the Governor for his approval, unless during such 10-day period the Governor shall approve the same, in which case such action shall become effective upon such approval, as provided by the Act.

DATED: September 24, 2025

## EXHIBIT A

**MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT**  
**BETWEEN**  
**NEW JERSEY MATERNAL AND INFANT HEALTH INNOVATION AUTHORITY**  
**AND**  
**THE NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND WORKFORCE**  
**DEVELOPMENT**  
**TO EFFECTIVELY ENGAGE PARENTS IN NEW JERSEY IN TAKING ADVANTAGE**  
**OF TEMPORARY DISABILITY & FAMILY LEAVE INSURANCE**

**THIS MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT** (the “Agreement”) is between Maternal and Infant Health Innovation Authority (“MIHIA”) and New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development (“NJDOLE”) each a “Party” and, collectively, the “Parties,” effective as of the last date signed below, it to memorialize the Parties understanding regarding:

1. The use of tailored messaging techniques that are culturally appropriate for the target audiences; and,
2. To create co-branded MIHIA-NJDOLE animated videos and graphics targeting fathers/non-birthing parents, mothers/birthing parents, and non-English speaking parents to educate and inform them on the benefit and the process for applying.

**WHEREAS**, in 2018, First Lady Tammy Murphy convened the first Black Maternal and Infant Health Leadership Summit. On Maternal Health Awareness Day in 2019, she launched Nurture NJ<sup>1</sup>, a statewide initiative committed to transforming New Jersey into the safest and most equitable state in the nation for delivering and raising a baby.

**WHEREAS**, in 2021, the Nurture NJ Strategic Plan was released with the aim of targeting all public and private agencies and organizations, community-based organizations, business leaders and employers, funders, members of communities most affected by disparities in maternal and infant outcomes, and all residents of New Jersey. Under the section addressing the social determinants of health, Recommendation 5.4, titled “Strengthen and Expand Public Policy to Support Conditions for Health in New Jersey,” states: “The Department of Labor should continue their efforts with employees and employers to expand utilization of the paid family leave benefits.”<sup>2</sup>

**WHEREAS**, access to Temporary Disability and Family Leave Insurance (TDI/FLI, also referred to as Paid Family and Medical Leave) for pregnant women and their partners has many benefits, including supporting breastfeeding initiation and duration, increased engagement with postpartum care, and reduced risk of postpartum depression.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://nurturenj.nj.gov/>

**WHEREAS**, there has been increased utilization of TDI/FLI since 2018, but there is continued evidence that awareness and access gaps persist among certain populations, particularly workers of color and immigrant workers.

**WHEREAS**, the New Jersey Temporary Disability Insurance Law mandates the New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development allocate funds to disseminate information about the rights of employees and responsibilities of employers regarding temporary disability insurance benefits and family leave insurance benefits by means of programs of educational outreach in communities (P.L.1948, c.110 (C.43:21- 45.2)).

**WHEREAS**, MIHIA was established pursuant to N.J.S.A. 26:18-17 et seq. (the “Act”) to reduce maternal mortality, morbidity and racial and ethnic disparities in the State and is charged with establishing and operating the New Jersey Maternal and Infant Health Innovation Center (the “Center”), which shall coordinate with governmental agencies, as well as private organizations, to, among other things: (a) advance perinatal, infant care, related health services and other services to residents throughout the State; (b) promote equitable maternal and infant health care services; and (c) implement strategies related to health care and social service delivery, perinatal workforce development, community engagement, data collection, research, and analysis; and (d) serve as an incubator of new enterprises, therapeutics, and technological innovations leading to better health outcomes and reduced mortality and morbidity rates for women and children. MIHIA is responsible for coordinating efforts and strategies to reduce maternal mortality, morbidity, and racial and ethnic disparities that exist within New Jersey.

**WHEREAS**, to address Recommendation 5.4 of the Nurture NJ Strategic Plan, MIHIA and NJDOL will effectively engage and educate fathers/non-birthing parents, mothers/birthing parents, and non-English speaking parents in New Jersey with a key focus on Atlantic County and Mercer County, in accessing and applying for TDI/FLI. To achieve this initiative, MIHIA will utilize several strategies to address cultural, linguistic, and informational barriers. These strategies will include developing a multimedia marketing campaign through creating multilingual educational materials and developing visual guides – such as videos and infographics – to explain TDI/FLI.

**NOW THEREFORE**, in consideration of the mutual covenants herein contained, the Parties hereby agree as follows:

## **I. SCOPE OF WORK**

The scope of work, protocol, and budget to be followed in implementing the project are described in the Work Plan incorporated herein.

For fathers/non-birthing parents, educational videos and graphics will address key areas of concern and confusion, such as lack of awareness of FLI, its availability, and job security. Additionally, these videos and graphics will emphasize the role a father's involvement plays in caring for the newborn and fostering bonding between the mother, birthing person, baby, and father. They will also discuss work-life balance, better family outcomes, and how a father's involvement can improve the mental health of partners who have just given birth.

For mothers and birthing persons, videos and graphics will illustrate how using TDI/FLI allows them to bond with their baby, recover, and care for their mental health – all without the immediate

worry about finances or returning to work too soon after giving birth. For non-English speaking parents, videos and graphics will feature targeted messaging that addresses common concerns, such as interference with job security, loss of income, or potential risks to their family by taking time off. This messaging is designed to destigmatize the use of TDI/FLI. All materials will be translated into Spanish, Haitian Creole, and Arabic by native speakers to ensure clear communication.

In addition, marketing materials will be designed to integrate with existing NJDOL TDI/FLI materials and tools, co-branded and shared between MIHIA and NJDOL to ensure consistent messaging across state departments, as well as posted on both MIHIA and NJDOL websites for increased reach to target populations.

MIHIA will also disseminate videos, graphics, and other promotional materials to its network of maternal and infant health stakeholders and partners. These include Connecting NJ Hubs, Family Connects, Nurture NJ's 22 state agencies, Regional Health Hubs, the Maternal Health Consortium, Capital Health and other health system partners, as well as doula training organizations and doula agencies. To drive traction and uptake in Mercer and Atlantic Counties specifically, MIHIA will work in tandem with the Trenton Health Team and the MCH Consortium to support efforts in Mercer County. In Atlantic County, MIHIA will collaborate closely with the Public Health Institute and local doula agencies that serve birthing individuals and families.

#### **Deliverables Timeline:**

- By the end of Quarter one after execution of the Agreement: consultant marketing concepts available for MIHIA and NJDOL review and comment
- By the end of Quarter two after execution of the Agreement: MIHIA and NJDOL approve and receive final marketing materials and begin dissemination of marketing materials to key internal and partner channels
- By the end of Quarter three after execution of the Agreement: MIHIA and NJDOL complete dissemination of marketing materials through internal and partner channels

## **II. TERM OF AGREEMENT**

The Agreement becomes effective upon execution by both the CEO of MIHIA and the Commissioner of NJDOL and shall remain in full force for twelve months.

## **III. PROJECT ADMINISTRATION**

### **Source of Funds to MIHIA from NJDOL**

Funding for the Agreement will come from the State Disability Benefits Fund – subject to the approval of the Director of the Division of Budget and Accounting now known as the Office of Management and Budget.

The budget shall not exceed \$200,000.00, and shall be used to engage fathers, mothers, and non-English speaking parents in New Jersey with a particular focus on Atlantic County and Mercer County in using TDI/FLI.

- (1) Within thirty (30) days of the Effective Date of the Agreement, NJDOL will debit the appropriate NJDOL TDI/FLI account and credit the MIHIA account number designated by MIHIA in the full amount of \$200,000.00 for state fiscal year 2026. Any unused portion of NJDOL funds must be returned to NJDOL upon the completion or end date of the Agreement, June 30, 2026.
- (2) The NJDOL has the right to audit records maintained by MIHIA for this program.

#### **IV. RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS OF MIHIA**

- A. MIHIA will work collaboratively with NJDOL to:
  - i. Present TDI/FLI information in a simplified fashion that is digestible to target groups and integrated with existing NJDOL materials and tools.
  - ii. Subcontract with consultants to create engaging videos and graphics, translate key messages, and complete voiceovers for these educational videos.
  - iii. Tailor videos and graphics to specific populations. All videos will discuss how to access and apply for TDI/FLI to destigmatize the use of the benefit.
  - iv. Disseminate the marketing materials through maternal health networks and partners.
- B. MIHIA shall be authorized to utilize the transferred funds for costs associated with engaging fathers, mothers, and non-English speaking parents in New Jersey with a particular focus on Atlantic County and Mercer County in taking advantage of TDI/FLI.
- C. MIHIA shall seek NJDOL's input on the development of and final approval for the marketing materials developed through the Agreement, prior to publication.
- D. MIHIA will provide NJDOL with electronic copies of the final marketing materials.
- E. MIHIA agrees to cooperate with any monitoring, evaluation, and/or audit that may be conducted by NJDOL or its designees and authorized agents.
- F. MIHIA shall make available to the NJDOL pertinent accounting records, books, documents, and papers as may be necessary to monitor and audit under the Agreement, including but not limited to those materials that demonstrate the number of parents served by the funding. The NJDOL shall have access to all records and/or data regarding the program during normal business hours during the term of the Agreement, any extensions thereof, and the seven-year record retention period.
- G. MIHIA shall retain fiscal and statistical records, supporting documents, and all other records related, in any way, to the Agreement for a period of seven years after the expiration or termination of the Agreement. If any litigation, claim or audit is started before the expiration of the seven-year retention period, all records and supporting documents shall be retained until all such litigation, claims, and audit findings are resolved.
- H. MIHIA shall submit a closeout letter via email to NJDOL describing the completion of the work plan deliverables by June 30, 2026.

#### **V. RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS OF NJDOL**

- A. NJDOL shall collaborate with MIHIA and its contractor on the development of the aforementioned co-branded marketing materials and provide final approval prior to publication.
- B. NJDOL shall provide subject matter expertise as necessary to ensure marketing materials are accurate.



- C. NJDOL shall post the marketing materials on its website and social media channels and disseminate to grantees and other key stakeholders to utilize in related TDI/FLI outreach and education activities.

## **VI. MODIFICATIONS**

The Agreement may be modified at any time by mutual written amendment signed by the authorized representative of the respective Parties. All modifications to the Agreement will be appended to and become part of the Agreement.

## **VII. TERMINATION**

Each Party shall have the right to terminate the Agreement by mailing the other Party written notice of termination by certified mail, return receipt requested, and email at least thirty (30) days prior to the termination date.

The Parties agree that major changes to the Agreement, both in terms of program content and funding levels, may be required prior to its implementation or during the term of its operations due to new or revised legislation or regulations. The grantee agrees that any such changes deemed necessary by the Commissioner of NJDOL shall be immediately incorporated into the Agreement.

## **VIII. DISPUTE RESOLUTION**

In the event a dispute arises between the Parties concerning the Agreement, the Commissioner of NJDOL and the CEO of MIHIA or their appointed representatives, shall meet to resolve such dispute.

## **IX. ENTIRE AGREEMENT**

The Agreement reflects the entire understanding of the Parties, and it supersedes any prior understandings of the Parties. It may not be amended, modified, or supplemented except by mutual consent of the Parties in writing and signed by the authorized representatives of each Party.

## **X. CONFIDENTIALITY**

The obligations of both Parties under the Agreement are subject to the New Jersey Open Public Records Act ("OPRA"), N.J.S.A. 47:1A-1 et seq., the New Jersey common law right to know, and any other lawful document request or subpoena. Notwithstanding any confidentiality obligations, the terms and pricing of the Agreement are subject to disclosure under OPRA, the common law right to know, and any other lawful document request or subpoena. In the event either Party receives a request for the other Party's Confidential Information pursuant to a court order, subpoena, or other operation of law, and if permitted by law, the receiving Party shall provide the other with as much written notice as reasonably practicable and indicate the intended response. Each Party may then take any action it deems appropriate to protect its information.

## **XI. PERFORMANCE STANDARDS**

Both Parties agree to carry out their responsibilities under the Agreement in good faith and in accordance with the timelines and deliverables outlined herein. If either Party fails to meet its obligations, the other Party may request corrective action in writing. Continued funding and participation in this initiative are contingent upon satisfactory performance, and any unresolved nonperformance may be addressed through available remedies included in the Agreement, such as potential termination or return of unspent funds.

## **XII. PRINCIPAL CONTACTS**

The principal contacts for all notifications required or otherwise necessary under the Agreement shall be as follows:

### **NEW JERSEY MATERNAL AND INFANT HEALTH INNOVATION AUTHORITY**

Lisa Asare, President and CEO  
[Lisa.Asare@njmihia.gov](mailto:Lisa.Asare@njmihia.gov)

### **NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT**

Charyl Yarbrough  
Assistant Commissioner, Employment Accessibility Services  
[charyl.yarbrough@dol.nj.gov](mailto:charyl.yarbrough@dol.nj.gov)

Rosabeatriz Mosley  
Executive Assistant, Employment Accessibility Services  
[rosabeatriz.mosley@dol.nj.gov](mailto:rosabeatriz.mosley@dol.nj.gov)  
609-376-5763

Holly Low  
Director of Strategic Outreach & Partnerships  
[holly.low@dol.nj.gov](mailto:holly.low@dol.nj.gov)

Rebecca Glinn  
Senior Policy Manager  
[rebecca.glinn@dol.nj.gov](mailto:rebecca.glinn@dol.nj.gov)

Thomas Wright  
Director of Marketing & Communications  
[thomas.wright@dol.nj.gov](mailto:thomas.wright@dol.nj.gov)

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**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, all Parties have caused the Agreement to be signed by their authorized representatives.

**FOR NEW JERSEY MATERNAL AND INFANT HEALTH INNOVATION AUTHORITY**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Lisa Asare, President and CEO  
New Jersey Maternal and Infant Health Innovation Authority

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**FOR NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT**

\_\_\_\_\_  


Robert Asaro-Angelo, Commissioner  
New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development

\_\_\_\_\_  
9/17/25

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**Approved as to Form**  
**Matthew J. Platkin, Attorney General**  
**State of New Jersey – Department of Law and Public Safety**

\_\_\_\_\_  


Roza Dabaghyan  
Deputy Attorney General  
For New Jersey Maternal and Infant Health Innovation Authority

\_\_\_\_\_  
9/18/25

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date