



# HEALTHY LIVING ACTION TEAM MEETING

## MEETING MINUTES

DECEMBER 17, 2025

## ATTENDANCE

Julie Kalabalik-Hoganson	Sreelekha Prakash	Maria Baron
Donna Lisi	Christine Scalise	Camilla Comer-Carruthers
Ellen Maughan	Polly Thomas	Loretta Kelly

## MEETING

Members were asked to introduce themselves by including their name and organization in the chat.

The ACT members reviewed each objective, strategies, and resources under the 4 Healthy Living priority areas:

1. Maternal & Infant Health
2. Clinical Preventive Health Care
3. Sexually Transmitted Infections
4. Mental Health & Substance Use

### **Maternal & Infant Health**

The objectives under this priority area focus on eliminating racial/ethnic disparities in infant mortality and pregnancy-related mortality rates and increasing exclusive breastfeeding through age 6 months. Several resources were mentioned to assist with achieving the objectives including [Nurture NJ](#), the [Maternal and Infant Health Innovation Authority](#) (MIHIA), and the [NJ Breastfeeding Strategic Plan](#). Ellen Maughan noted that the New Jersey Breastfeeding Strategic Plan team has created and recorded a lactation education module for community health workers and created lactation education for [Family Connects NJ](#) staff. They are currently working on lactation education for doulas.

### **Clinical Preventive Health**

There was a lengthy discussion of resources available to support clinical preventive services including the New Jersey Department of Health's [Vaccine Preventable Disease Program](#), the [Vaccines for Children](#) and [317](#) vaccine supply programs, and awareness campaign. There was a discussion of the need to identify areas of low immunization for targeted outreach, and education for providers and patients.

## **Sexually Transmitted Infections**

The objectives for this priority area focus on reducing the rates for chlamydia, gonorrhea, primary syphilis, secondary syphilis, early latent syphilis, and congenital syphilis. There was a question of whether we should target specific populations like high school students, those who are pregnant, or individuals in reproductive age. It was stated that only pregnant patients (with no age restriction) are targeted for the congenital syphilis prevention (and other STI) investigation strategy. However, STI rates have increased in all populations and the Action Team can consider specific strategies to reduce the rates for age-related vulnerable populations.

## **Mental Health & Substance Use**

The objectives for this priority area focus on eliminating the disparity in unintentional drug overdose deaths by county, reducing the use of tobacco/nicotine products in youth and adults, and addressing the shortage of mental health care providers in the state. There was a brief discussion of the resources available to address drug overdose deaths. In the interest of time, the remaining objectives and discussion of the Action Team Chair position were tabled and Camilla stated that she would send the meeting notes and slides for review. Members were asked to review the Healthy Living objectives, strategies, and resources and add existing resources that may be missing from the list.

Happy Holidays everyone!

The meeting was called to a close at 2:03pm. Next meeting: **Wednesday, March 18, 2026 at 1:00 pm.**