

## Women's Health Initiative Advisory Council Meeting

### Meeting Minutes

May 22, 2023, 1-4 pm

The meeting minutes from the January meeting were mailed to the members prior to this meeting. The meeting of the Women's Health Advisory Council (WHAC) was called to order at 1:04 pm by Rachel Hays, Chair. The meeting was held virtually via Webex. Quorum was present.

#### Roll Call (Introductions)

##### Members Present:

Rachel Hays  
Kate Fiandt  
Samantha Kenning  
Erica Anderson  
Julie Tabor  
Ebony Byars  
Celeste Illian  
Janelle Ali-Dinar  
Victoria Vinton

##### Members Absent:

Bethany Arnold  
Tami DeBonis  
Rachel Thompson  
Jennifer Severe-Oforah  
Timothy Tesmer

##### DHHS Staff Present:

Shirley Pickens-White  
Leah Snyder

Rachel made the following announcement in reference to the Open Meetings Act:

*Open Meeting Act Location Announcement: In accordance with Section 84-1412 of the Nebraska Revised Statutes, a copy of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act is located with the Office of Women's Health Initiative staff. The Women's Health Advisory Council Meeting Notice along with the agenda were posted on the Public Meeting Calendar on May 8, 2023.*

Rachel Hays is stepping down as Chair because she will not be renewing her membership on the Council.

#### Approval of Meeting Minutes:

Rachel asked if everyone had a chance to review the January meeting minutes.

Kate moved to approve the meeting minutes as submitted. Celeste seconded. In favor: Rachel Hays, Kate Fiandt, Samantha Kenning, Erica Anderson, Julie Tabor, Ebony Byars, Celeste Illian, Victoria Vinton. Opposed: none. Abstentions: None. **Motion carried.**

There were no public comments or outstanding past public comments.

Janelle Ali-Dinar joined the meeting at 1:16

#### DHHS Report Outs:

DHHS is currently working on some bills that were passed. Members discussed LB 574. The Legislative Committee and Council did not take action on LB 574. These two issues addressed in the bill were in separate bills at the time the Council initially considered them.

Members discussed meeting requirements, location, frequency, and length of meetings as part of the DHHS report outs. Quorum was also discussed.

Members discussed sending letters to employers of members to encourage them to excuse members to attend the meetings. Members discussed ways to help raise awareness about the Council. A decision was made to continue with quarterly meetings, but to only meet for 1-2 hours, alternating between in-person and virtual.

Rachel asked for nominations for Co-Chair. Janelle volunteered to be considered. Victoria nominated Janelle. Kate seconded. In favor: Rachel Hays, Kate Fiandt, Samantha Kenning, Erica Anderson, Julie Tabor, Ebony Byars, Celeste Illian, Janelle Ali-Dinar, Victoria Vinton. Opposed: none. Abstentions: none.  
**Motion carried.**

#### **Membership and vacancy update:**

Members discussed current vacancies, the process for submitting applications and recommendations (for appointment and removal) to the Governor's Office, and ways to recruit and hasten the appointment process. Staff will follow up with Governor's Office.

Members discussed the relationship between DHHS and the Council, along with the statute that governs the Council. The Strategic Plan and the Women's Health Initiative Annual Report were discussed as well. The Council was informed that DHHS prepares the Women's Health Initiative Annual Report and that the Council can contribute to that report. The report is due September 1 of each year.

#### **Women's Health Issue Forum**

The Legislative Subcommittee was not able to take on this task without the Council as a whole. Members discussed having an informal social to engage Legislators. Victoria will contact Legislators. Kate, Janelle, Ebony, and Julie offered to help with planning the social.

#### **Subcommittee Report-Outs:**

Legislative: Appreciation expressed to members for their involvement on the committee. Update given on the bills proposed back in January for the Council to support. Appreciation given to Samantha for testifying on LB57, which did not advance. Other bills that did not advance that the Council supported were LB 115, 145, 248, 333, LR 18CA and 19CA. They did have success with LB 227 which advanced and LB 276, which passed.

Strategic Planning: Members were encouraged to read and stay in line with the Plan. There was also a proposal for a new Strategic Planning Subcommittee Chair.

Membership: The Subcommittee hadn't met since last meeting. There was a discussion about members missing meetings.

#### **Next Meeting:**

Members discussed whether to invite a speaker for the next meeting, who could give an update on the status and trajectory of women's health and mental health and to whom the Council could share the plans for a social. Suggestion made to invite Senator Anna Wishart whose bill just passed. Members discussed other possible speaker topics.

The next meeting will be on September 21, 2023, from 1-3 pm at the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska Health Center community area located at 1600 Windhoek Dr. Lincoln, NE 68512.

#### **Adjourn:**

Meeting adjourned at 2:42 pm.

Minutes by Leah Snyder