

Women's Health Initiative Advisory Council Meeting
Meeting Minutes
April 28, 2022

The meeting of the Women's Health Initiative Advisory Council was called to order at 1:00 p.m. by Rachel Hays, Chair, via WebEx. The meeting was held In-Person and via Web-Ex. The In-person location for the meeting was the Nebraska State Office Building, Conference Room LL-C, located at 301 Centennial Mall South, Lincoln, Nebraska.

ROLL CALL (Introductions)

Members attending Via WebEx:

Dr. Gary Anthonie
Bethany Arnold
Ebony Byars
Ashley Carroll
Rachel Hays
Celeste Illian
Samantha Kenning
Libby Mollard
Kailey Snyder
Victoria Vinton

Members Absent:

Dr. Robert Drvol
Amber Grob
Sara Morgan
Kathryn Fiandt
Tami DeBonis
Julie Tabor

Guests:

Michele Borg (Strategic Planning Facilitator)
Senator Machaela Cavanaugh

Staff attending via WebEx:

Shirley Pickens-White, DHHS Staff

Staff attending In-Person and via WebEx

Christine Esch, DHHS Staff

A quorum was present.

Hays made the following announcement in reference to the Open Meeting Act.

In accordance with Section 84-1412 of the Nebraska Revised Statutes, a copy of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act was posted in the room. Copies are also 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 April 18, 2022.

Approval of Meeting Minutes:

Vinton made the motion to accept the meeting minutes of January 27, 2022 and Carroll seconded the motion.

Vacancies:

Vacancies were discussed. Names to fill two vacant positions, along with names for two reappointments will be submitted to the Governor's office soon: Those positions include:

- 1) 41-65 Female Healthcare Consumer (currently vacant)
- 2) Insurance Industry Representative (currently vacant)
- 3) Epidemiologist (reappointment)
- 4) UNMC (reappointment)

The following positions are still open:

1. OB/GYN
2. Female Healthcare Consumer Age 66-older
3. Geriatrics RN

4. Private Healthcare Industry Rep

The two positions that will term out and need to be reappointed are:

- 1) Pediatrician
- 2) APRN

Hays recognized DeBonis as being the chair-person for the membership committee. Below is the link to the Governor's website for the application on the Executive Appointment <https://governor.nebraska.gov/board-comm-req>

Public Comment:

Nathan Arentsen provided public comments.

Arentsen specified different partners and programs within Women's Health Initiative including Maternal, Child and Health Block Grant (Title X), and WIC which he uses. Arentsen had concerns about Nebraska DHHS not qualifying for future Title X and WIC funding. He states that DHHS policy appears to violate federal non-discrimination provisions which governs those funds. Arentsen proposed that the Council show concern about these current violations made by DHHS and instruct DHHS to eliminate its discriminatory policy toward male victims of sexual assault and domestic violence as well as remedy any past discrimination.

Legislative Committee Update/Membership/Strategic Planning:

Carroll provided a subcommittee update and overview to the Council. The Legislative sub-committee had a meeting in December to put together policies/procedures to create a structure and mechanism for the council to engage in advocacy representing the Women's Health Advisory Council. Carroll shared the following:

- Link to Google Drive
- Legislative Sub-Committee Charter
- Bill Tracker Spreadsheet

Carroll asked for a motion to create a bill list that they would cultivate through the sub-committee and then asked for approval of the bills that they would take action on. Hays made the first motion to be approve and Snyder seconded the motion. Carroll asked for a motion to approve a process by which WHAC can engage in Legislative advocacy as representatives of the Council. Hays made the first motion to approve and Illian seconded motion.

Presentation:

Senator Machaela Cavanaugh did a brief highlight on some of the bills introduced during the Legislative session: Following bills discussed:

- LB 741- Provides for review of still births under the child and maternal death review act
- LB 626 - A bill for an act relating to the Child and Maternal Death Review Act.
- LB 905 - Provide for perinatal mental health screening
- LB 929 - Require submission of Medicaid state plan amendment or waiver to extend postpartum coverage
- LB 119 - Change provision of the Health Pregnancies for Incarcerated Women Act
- LB 886 - Adopt the Volunteer Emergency Responders Incentive Act and provide income tax credits
- LB 290 - Adopt the Paid Family and Medical Leave Insurance Act

Women's Health Month in May:

Carroll shared that WHAC doesn't have the designated financial resources to implement programs. She provided some ideas on things that they could do as a Council:

- Leveraging existing programs initiatives

- Forging partnerships
- Amplifying messaging (planned campaign messaging around women's health month)

Kenning provided some resources for women's health month

- <https://www.preeclampsia.org/events/preeclampsia-awareness-month-1>
- <https://www.cdc.gov/women/observances/index.htm>
- [Women's Health Month – NCCC \(nccc-online.org\)](https://www.nccc-online.org/Women's-Health-Month)
- [About National Women's Health Week | Office on Women's Health \(womenshealth.gov\)](https://www.womenshealth.gov/about-national-womens-health-week)

Explore statutory authority resources:

Carroll discussed the statutory requirements and duties of Women's Health Initiative of the Nebraska. Duties such as:

- Advising Office of Women's Health on its work of:
 - Providing education
 - Policy development
 - Advocacy

Carroll suggested as an agenda item "Office of Women's Health Report" to the Council.

Strategic plan: Review & Discuss:

Discussion of Strategic planning was facilitated by M. Borg. Items included Vision, Mission, Core Values, Priority Issues, Goals (Work Groups), Strategies, Action Plans and Evaluation. The Mission Statement was revised and approved by the Council Hays made a motion to approve the Core Values. Seconded by Dr. Anthone

Carroll led discussion about Priority Issues. Issues identified:

- Mental Health
- Reproductive Health over Life Span
- Violence against Women
- Economic Barriers to Accessing Healthcare

Illian shared some of the Maternal Mortality Review committee's priority issues. They included:

- Domestic Violence Safety Plan Development
- Care Continuity
- Non-Discriminatory Practices
- Access to Behavioral Health
- Access to Medical Care
- Adoption of Best Practices and Health Care
- Closed Loop Social Support

Hays would like to have the Strategic Plan approved at the next meeting.

General Announcement:

Hays announced that Carroll received the "Public Health Defender Award".

Next Meeting:

Tentative date for next WHAC meeting is July 28th, 2022 @ 1:00p-3:00p. Location is TBD.

Adjourned:

Meeting was adjourned at 3:36 p.m.

Meeting Minutes by:

Christine Esch