

**Women’s Health Initiative Advisory Council Meeting
Meeting Minutes
October 28, 2021**

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 WebEx. The In-person location for the meeting was Conference Room LLC, of the Nebraska State Office Building, located at 301 Centennial Mall South, Lincoln, Nebraska.

ROLL CALL (Introductions)

Members attending Via WebEx:

Dr. Gary Anthonie
Bethany Arnold
Ebony Byars
Ashley Carroll
Tami Debonis
Amber Grob
Rachel Hays
Samantha Kenning
Elizabeth Mollard
Sara Morgan
Kailey Snyder
Julie Tabor
Victoria Vinton

Members Absent:

Dr. Robert Drvol
Kathryn “Kate” Finadt
Kayleigh Lewandowski
Elizabeth Halgren

Guests:

Celeste Illian
Michele Borg

Also Attending by WebEx:

Shirley Pickens-White DHHS 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.

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 October 20, 2021.

Approval of Meeting Minutes:

Kenning made the motion to accept the meeting minutes of August 26, 2021 and Morgan seconded the motion.

Vacancies:

The vacancies were discussed. The following positions are still open:

1. Private Healthcare Industry Rep
2. OB/GYN
3. Insurance Industry Rep
4. Female Healthcare Consumer Age 66-older
5. Epidemiologist

Below is the link to the Governor's website for the application on the Executive Appointment:

<https://governor.nebraska.gov/board-comm-req>

Legislative Update:

Carroll provided a brief update on the Legislative session. Some of the bills mentioned were:

LR - 142 - Maternal Depression

LR - 221 - Maternal and Infant Mortality and Morbidity

LR - 181 - Home Visiting

LR - 190 - Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Program

The bills passed during the 2021 Nebraska Legislative Session have now become law:

LB - 320- Expands eviction protections for domestic violence survivors and allow for termination of rental agreements through housing protections.

LB - 372 - Strengthening the Crime Victim's Reparations Program

LB - 497 - Increase access to financial support for victims of domestic abuse, sexual assault, trafficking and child abuse.

Members that joined the Legislative workgroup are: Kenning, Tabor, Grob and Vinton.

Presentation: Nebraska Maternal Mortality Report

Celeste Illian, Epidemiology Surveillance Coordinator gave a presentation on the Nebraska Maternal Mortality Report. Illian went over the contributing factors on the Maternal Death and the Maternal Mortality Review Committees (MMRC's). The MMRC is tasked with determining any factors that contributed to the maternal death and the possible factors from which the committee can choose. Illian stated that the MMRC meeting will be in April of 2022, which the committee will not review any cases but instead do some facilitation around the recommendations from those surveys. It was mentioned that the most common contributing factors to maternal deaths included, lack of access or financial resources, continuity of care or care coordination, tobacco use, adherence to medical recommendations, and clinical skill or quality of care.

Nebraska MMRC is guided by the Nebraska Revised Statute 71-3404 – 71-3411, also referred to as the Child and Maternal Death Review Act. In part, the statute declares there is a need for the number and causes of maternal death to be examined through comprehensive review.

Finalize Sub Committees:

Carroll discussed sub-committees. Hays and Carroll are proposing the formation of these sub-committees to meet on a monthly basis and then report out at the quarterly meetings. Carroll stated that there are three sub-committees have been chosen:

- Legislative Committee
- Strategic Planning Committee
- Membership Sub-Committee

Snyder made the motion to approve and create these sub committees and Carroll seconded the motion. A google form will be sent out to see which sub-committee members are interested in joining.

Strategic Planning Action Items and Survey:

Borg discussed strategic planning. An email of the PowerPoint presentation on the strategic planning action was sent out. The first part of the planning is how to identify:

- Mission/Goals and Strategies
- Survey
- Internal Strengths of the group
- Weakness of the group
- Positive things that Nebraska is doing in relation to women's health

Borg asked that the Council complete the survey on the Strategic Planning.

Next Agenda:

- Roll Call and Introduction
- Approval of Meeting Minutes and Vacancies Update
- Legislative Update
- Strategic Planning and Membership Update
- Presentation: TBD
- Finalized the sub-committee
- Brainstorming ideas for next meeting

Brainstorming and Location for the WHAC meeting:

Hays suggested that the next meeting be held by WebEx. The next meeting is scheduled for January 27 from 1:00p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Meeting was adjourned at 3:01 p.m.

Christine Esch

