

## **Minutes**

Women's Health Initiative Advisory Council  
Wednesday, April 3, 2019

### **In Attendance:**

Robert Drvol  
Kristine Follett  
Susan Jeffery  
Brenda McIntosh  
Marcia Merboth  
Babz Moffatt  
Elizabeth Mollard  
Ellen Zoeller

### **Phone:**

Libby Crockett  
Ashley Kassimeier

### **Staff:**

Andrea Wenke  
Shirley Pickens White  
Christine Esch

### **Absent:**

Shirley Blanchard  
Cynthia Cusick  
Parskevi Farazi  
Christine Guenther  
Elizabeth Hardy  
Mary Larsen  
Sara Morgan  
Audrey Paulman  
Terra Uhing

Ellen Zoeller called the Women's Health Advisory Council (Council) meeting to order at 1:04 p.m., and reviewed the Open Meetings Act with members. Shirley Pickens-White suggested that Council members should decide on a vice-chairman for the Council when they have the quorum to vote on it. Ellen welcomed visiting guest, nursing student Gabriell Schmeckle, to the meeting.

*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 on the table near the door.*

### **Introductions, Approval of Minutes and Vacancies:**

Council members and staff introduced themselves. Since quorum was not met, Ellen postponed approval of previous meeting minutes until the next Council meeting on, Wednesday, July 10, 2019. Ellen went over current Council vacancies and asked if members had any recommendations, or knew of anyone who would be interested in applying to the Council. She also reviewed which members would be completing their first-term:

- 1) Libby Crocket
- 2) Dr. Robert Drvol
- 3) Paraskevi Farazi
- 4) Ashley Kassmeier
- 5) Mary Larsen
- 6) Elizabeth Mollard

The vacancies that will become available are:

- UNMC Representative
- District 2 Representative
- Community Health Educator District 3

**Certificate Presentation:**

Andrea noted that Audrey Paulman and Elizabeth Hardy's Council terms were over and said that it was a pleasure to have them Council. Since they were absent from the meeting, their certificates of appreciation will be mailed to them.

**Women's Health Initiatives (WHI) and DHHS Agency Update:**

Shirley Pickens-White briefed the Council on the following WHI and DHHS activities:

- Dannette Smith was named the new CEO for DHHS and three new deputy directors for public health were named:
  - 1) Darrell Klein oversees Health Licensure and Environmental Health
  - 2) Ashley Newmyer oversees Health Data & Informatics, Epidemiology and Vital Records
  - 3) Mark Pyle oversees Community Health, Health Promotion and Preparedness
- The Minority Health Conference is on April 17, 2019 in York

Shirley mentioned that WHI just submitted the continuation application for the Parenting Teens grant, which is a two-year grant that is being worked on through the Office of Adolescent Health, Children and Families Services and Nebraska Children and Families Foundation. She also mentioned continuing to participate in Title V work plan activities. Shirley stated about the Strategic Plan 90-day project that the Division of Public Health has been working on for the accreditation and improving work processes, as well as planning the Maternal and Behavioral Health Conference on April 9, 2019.

**Legislative Committee Update:**

Ellen Zoeller reviewed the 2019 legislative session, which ends in June, and noted that the bills the Council selected to support, were currently stalled in committee. The following priority bills are:

1. LB 170 - Provide a sales and use tax exemption for feminine hygiene products
2. LB 249 - Change the statute of limitations for civil actions arising from a sexual assault
3. LB 311 - Adopt the Paid Family and Medical Leave Insurance Act
4. LB 498 - Provide for medical assistance coverage of family planning services as prescribed

Instead of sending hard copies, the legislative workgroup sent the letters of support to Legislature via email. The following are additional bills that the legislative committee is tracking:

1. LB 13 - Provide a sales tax exemption for breast pumps and related supplies and exempt breast-feeding from public indecency offenses

2. LB 140 - Change provisions relating to the Indoor Tanning Facility Act
3. LB 247 - Adopt the Advance Mental Health Care Directives Act
4. LB 519 - Change statutes of limitations for certain sexual and trafficking offenses and authorize interception of communications relating to such offenses
5. LB 709 - Provide for a place to express breast milk in the State Capitol

### **Workgroups:**

Ellen reviewed Council workgroups and invited members who had not yet joined a group to do so. Brenda McIntosh discussed some ideas for the mental health workgroup and one suggestion was:

- Having a mental health speaker to discuss the people who are incarcerated.

Ellen discussed some ideas surrounding the sexual health workgroup committee and one suggestion was the STD that could be a topic for the sexual health committee.

Libby Crockett mentioned some ideas for the Healthy Aging workgroup committee and they were:

1. How do you concisely educate people exactly in how to eat well?
2. Exercising your body is important
3. Getting together with other social support groups on healthy aging

Libby discussed the healthy aging among older women which are uncontrollable type 2 diabetes and getting the treatment for the diabetes in addition to treating depression/anxiety which impacts quality of life especially in older women.

### **Spotlight: Nebraska Health Rankings**

Andrea gave handouts of the Nebraska Health Rankings to the Council members. She shared different information about the “Measure, Nebraska, 2018 Health of Women and Children Report” with the Council. Here is the [link](#), which includes comparison to other states. Shirley encouraged members to suggest topics they would be interested in “spotlighting.”

### **Planning for the next WHAC meeting:**

Council members agreed that the Carol Joy Holling Center (1:00 PM – 4:00 PM) is a good location/time for meetings. If a Council member plans on calling in to a meeting (and wants to be counts towards quorum), the member’s physical location needs to be registered on the Governor’s website two weeks prior to the Council meeting. **Public comment:**

There was no public comments made at the Women’s Health Advisory Council meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 3:00 and Dr. Drvol made the first motion and Susan Jeffrey second the motion.

**Next Meeting:** Wednesday July 10, 2019 from 1:00-4:00

Meeting minutes by: Christine