

## **Minutes**

Women's Health Initiative Advisory Council  
Wednesday, May 10, 2018

### **In Attendance:**

Kristine Follett  
Mary Larsen  
Brenda McIntosh  
Marcia Merboth  
Barbara Moffatt  
Sara Morgan  
Ellen Zoeller  
Jina Ragland  
Judy Reimer  
Tom Williams  
Heidi Woodard

### **Phone:**

Libby Crockett  
Ashley Kassmeier  
Elizabeth Mollard  
Shirley Blanchard  
Evi Frazai  
Nicole Barbour  
Robert Drvol

### **Staff:**

Andrea Wenke  
Shirley Pickens White  
Christine Esch

### **Guest Speaker:**

Jessica Seberger

Heidi Woodard called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m on May 9, 2018. Heidi read the Open Meeting Act announcement:

*Open Meeting Act Announcement made in accordance with the Nebraska Statute Open Meetings Act. A notice of this public meeting and the agenda was posted in the State of Nebraska Public Meeting Calendar, the Women's Health Initiative (Women's Health) website and on the wall by the entrance to the meeting space. A copy of the Open Meeting Act and the agenda is available at each publicized location for this meeting.*

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

Council members and staff introduced themselves. The meeting minutes were approved with the change to add Mary Larsen to persons in attendance at the last meeting (January 10, 2018). Jina Ragland made motion to approve minutes and Sara Morgan seconded the motion. Motion carried.

### **Certificates of Appreciation:**

Andrea Wenke presented Heidi Woodard, Jina Ragland, and Judy Reimer (whose terms ended) with certificates for participating in the Council.

### **Vacancies:**

Shirley Pickens-White discussed current Council vacancies and the list of placements from the Governor's Office. It was also discussed that a new Council chairperson will be needed since Heidi Woodard has termed out. There was some discussion that the Guidelines state that the Co-chair would be the person to assume this role. Mary Larsen agreed to take on the chairperson's

role. Ellen Zoeller was nominated to be the next Legislative chairperson, replacing Jina Ragland. Heidi Woodard stated that she knows someone interested in joining the Council as the insurance industry representative.

### **Presentation:**

Jessica Seberger, DHHS Program Manager for Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System (PRAMS) gave a presentation on “Binge Drinking and Maternal Health.” Andrea mentioned that PRAMS data is used to by other areas within public health, as well as the CDC. Jessica stated that PRAMS is a surveillance system that monitors the health of new mothers and their babies in Nebraska. PRAMS began in Nebraska in 1999 and is ongoing; they survey 10% of all births annually in Nebraska.

### **Legislative Workgroup:**

Jina Ragland discussed the Legislative session that ended on April 18, 2018. Jina stated that there were 459 bills introduced in 2018 which brings the total to 1,136 bills between 2017 and 2018. There were 152 bills signed into law by the Governor and 5 bills vetoed this last session. The bills that were passed this Legislative session will go into effect in July of 2018. Jina went over the following bills listed on the 2017-2018 Legislative’s tracking sheet:

- ✚ [LB92](#) – Require health carriers to provide coverage for telehealth services (Governor approved)
- ✚ [LB120](#) – Provide for Medical Assistance Act coverage for family planning services as prescribe
- ✚ [LB323](#) – Adopt the Palliative Care and Quality of Life Act (Governor approved)

The Legislative workgroup made recommendations on the following bills this session and sent letters of support to the Senators:

- ✚ [LB701](#) – Provide the telehealth practice by physicians and physician assistants. (Governor approved)
- ✚ [LB770](#) - Change provisions relating to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program–bill did not make it out of committee.
- ✚ [LB838](#) – Change provisions relating to the Indoor Tanning Facility Act – bill did not make it out of committee
- ✚ [LB985](#) – Provide for state funding of prenatal care under the medical assistance program –bill did not make it out of committee

Jina stated that [LB701](#), which was introduced by Senator Kolterman, is a bill that allows “a physician-patient relationship through telehealth without the requirement for an initial face –to –face visit. This bill will go into effect July 2018 and is a great win for Nebraska and access to care.

### **Sexual Health:**

Andrea mentioned that there is a free webinar on opioid treatment options for pregnant women for anyone interested. Sara discussed the Title V Block Grant that DHHS Lifespan Health is

currently writing. It will address several objectives in the women's maternal health domain, including improving well-women screening visits and improved STI testing. Women's Health Initiatives and Reproductive Health are part of a workgroup that is addressing these objectives. Andrea talked about putting this Title V framework in a council workgroup which they can think about ways to support this objective around issues that they know. Andrea mentioned that they will need a chairperson for the sexual health workgroup.

**Healthy Aging:** Shirley Blanchard expressed an interest in the availability of healthy aging guidelines regarding these specific topics below from US Food and Drug Administration, National Institute on Health, on Aging, and Womenshealth.gov:

1. Healthy diet and nutrition
2. Avoiding common medication mistakes
3. Managing a variety of health conditions
4. Recommend screening for women
5. Participate in physical activity

Shirley Pickens-White gave the Council an update on the new Palliative Care Council and their activities.

**Strategic Plan:**

Shirley Pickens-White discussed moving forward in doing the work with the strategic plan within the statute of DHHS and the statute of the Council. Staff is currently looking at what was being worked on with each workgroup and how they were structured. Shirley talked about things that are currently being worked on with other partners within the agency. Shirley mentioned the partnership with Maternal Child and Health in working with some of their Title V planning. She also talked about partnering with Health Equity and developing things around healthy aging with the support of the Palliative Care Council. Shirley wanted the Council to decide on which committees they want to do and how many workgroup committees they want to have. Heidi Woodard thought it was a good idea to supplement the work that Shirley mentioned. Shirley mentioned for the next meeting agenda to be on:

1. Legislation that created the council
2. Workgroup and committees
3. Description ideas of the committees

**Health Equity:**

Sara said the use of 17P is an issue Nebraska MCO's are addressing and that DHHS Lifespan Health has signed an MOU with Medicaid to collect birth records for Medicaid patients to gain 17P data. Andrea stated that this deals with larger issues in pre-term birth and women of color.

**Announcements:**

Andrea summarized The Current Practices of Maternal Behavioral Health Conference that was held in April of 2018. Please see the following link for more information:

<http://dhhs.ne.gov/publichealth/MCAH/Pages/MBHConference.aspx>. The conference hosted two national speakers who presented on several interesting topics. Shirley reminded the group of National Women's Health Week and suggested that the Council think about doing something for 2019 National Women's Health Week.

Meeting Adjourned at 4:00

Next meeting: September 12<sup>th</sup> 2018

Meeting minutes by Christine