

Women's Health Initiative Advisory Council
Meeting Minutes
January 26, 2023

The meeting of the Women's Health Initiative Advisory Council (WHAC) was called to order at 1:05 pm by Kate Fandt, Cochair. The meeting was held remotely via Webex.

Roll Call (Introductions)

Members present: Kate Fandt, Erica Anderson, Celeste Illian, Julie Tabor, Victoria Vinton, Jennifer Severe-Oforah, Amber Grob, Ebony Byars, and Janelle Ali-Dinar

Members Absent: Dr. Matthew Donahue, Bethany Arnold, Tami DeBonis, Rachel Hays, Samantha Kenning, and Rachel Thompson.

DHHS Staff present: Shirley Pickens-White and Leah Snyder

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Kate motioned to approve last meeting's minutes. Julie moved to approve the minutes and Victoria seconded. None opposed or abstained. Motion passed.

Council Vacancies

Shirley listed the current vacancies in membership of the WHAC. They are as follows: APRN or PA from a rural community, OBGYN, pediatrician, Creighton Medical School representative, State health volunteer agency representative, female health consumer representatives aged 41-65 and one aged 66 and older, geriatrics physician or RN.

Kate asked if anyone knew of any applicants and Victoria brought up the issue the council's inability to take action because of so few members. She asked Shirley look into that issue. Kate mentioned that the membership committee has reached out to some folks with their standard email. The committee has not been able to meet but they plan to meet in February.

Kate asked Shirley to clarify the role of the state health volunteer agency representative.

Victoria brought up the possibility of the governor selecting members based on his or her own political party and that the committee might have more luck reaching out to people who were republicans.

Shirley explained that the State Statute has language concerning the duty of the council to maintain political party balance in membership.

Public Comment/ Update on past public comment

Kate asked for any public comments. There were no public comments or updates on past public comments.

Chair and Co-Chair Council Vacancies

Kate said that Rachel Hays is looking for someone to be chair of the strategic planning committee. Kate explained what that role would look like and asked for any volunteers for nomination to that position. There were no volunteers. Kate will meet with Rachel concerning this position and contact some folks.

Sub-Committee Report Outs

Victoria gave the legislative committee report out. The legislative committee met on December 14, January 13, and January 24. They worked to start building relationships with State Senators and possible collaboration organizations. Some organizations they are considering are IV Black Girl, Women's Fund of Omaha, Nebraska Applicancy, Planned Parenthood of the Heartland, Coalition for a Strong Nebraska, Postpartum Support International-Nebraska Chapter, NOMI Nebraska, Nebraska Nurses Association, Public Health Association of Nebraska, Nebraska Rural Health Association, AWHONN, Nebraska Nurse Practitioners, and Black Doulas of Nebraska.

Victoria explained actions that the Legislative Committee can take with approval of the Council. Actions such as contact senators and develop relationships, take positions on legislation, lobby, draft policy agendas, and be involved in public discourse. The committee can advocate for funding and address structural barriers to health across the lifespan.

The Legislative Committee selected 11 bills to review this year. Below are the six that the Council voted on.

LB 57, Senator Bostar- Victoria motioned and Kate seconded. Erica had asked about the funding source of this bill. All in favor: Victoria, Janelle, Celeste, Kate, Ebony, Erica. Opposed: 0 Abstaining: Jennifer?? Absent: Matthew, Bethany, Tami, Amber, Rachel Hays, Samantha, Rachel Thompson. **Motion carried.**

LB145, Senator Cavanaugh- Victoria motioned and Kate seconded. In favor: Kate, Janelle, Ebony, Erica, Julie, Victoria, Celeste. Opposed: none, Abstaining: Jennifer. Absent: Matthew, Bethany, Tami, Amber, Rachel Hays, Samantha, Rachel Thompson. **Motion carried.**

LB35, Senator DeBoer- Victoria motioned and Ebony seconded. Kate asked for any comments. Erica had asked about the funding source of this bill. In favor: Kate, Janelle, Ebony, Erica, Julie, Celeste, Jennifer. Opposed: none, Abstaining: none. Absent: Matthew, Bethany, Tami, Amber, Rachel Hays, Samantha, Rachel Thompson. **Motion carried.**

LB84, Senator Day- Victoria motioned, and Kate seconded. Celeste commented that this will only be eliminating the eligibility sunset for SNAP for one year. In favor: Kate, Janelle, Ebony, Erica, Julie, Victoria, Jennifer. Opposed: none, Abstaining: none. Absent: Matthew, Bethany, Tami, Amber, Rachel Hays, Samantha, Rachel Thompson. **Motion carried.**

LB248, Senator Vargas- Kate motioned and Janelle seconded. In favor: 6 (I did not catch who). Opposed: ???, Abstaining: none. Absent: Matthew, Bethany, Tami, Amber, Rachel Hays, Samantha, Rachel Thompson. **Motion carried.**

LB 115, Senator Raybould- Motioned: ?? Seconded: ?? . In favor: Kate, Janelle, Ebony, Erica, Julie, Victoria, Celeste. Opposed: none. Abstaining: none. Absent: Matthew, Bethany, Tami, Amber, Rachel Hays, Samantha, Rachel Thompson. **Motion carried.**

Next Meeting

TBD. Kate mentioned the possibility of finding a speaker for the next meeting.

Adjourned

Meeting adjourned at 3:05 pm.

Meeting minutes by Leah Snyder