

Women's Health Initiative Advisory Council Meeting

Meeting Minutes

December 7, 2023, 1-3 pm

The meeting of the Women's Health Advisory Council (WHAC) was called to order at 1:02 pm by Kathryn Fiandt, Chair. The meeting was held virtually via Webex.

In accordance with § 84-1411 of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act, copies of the agenda were 1) e-mailed to the Board members. Agenda was also posted on the DHHS web site at <https://dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/Womens-Health-Initiatives-Contact-Us.aspx>. The Women's Health Advisory Council Meeting Notice along with the agenda were posted on the Public Meeting Calendar on 11/20/2023.

Roll Call (Introductions)

Members Present:

Kate Fiandt
Erica Anderson
Celeste Illian
Jennifer Severe-Oforah
Samantha Kenning
Victoria Vinton
Janelle Ali-Dinar
Ebony Byars

Members Absent:

Tami DeBonis
Rachel Thompson

DHHS Staff Present:

Shirley Pickens-White
Leah Snyder

Approval of Meeting Minutes:

September's meeting minutes were approved. Erica motioned to approve and Kate seconded. In favor: Kate Fiandt, Erica Anderson, Celeste Illian, Jennifer Severe-Oforah, Victoria Vinton, Janelle Ali-Dinar, and Ebony Byars. Opposed: None. Abstentions: Samantha Kenning. **Motion carried.**

Public Comments

There were no public comments or outstanding past public comments.

DHHS Report Outs: None

There was a discussion on additions needed on the annual report. The report is not able to be updated, but the needed additions were listed during the meeting.

Membership and Vacancy Update: More information about applications has been sent to the Governor's Office but DHHS has not heard from them yet. Communication will continue and the Council will be informed when new appointments are made.

Speakers:

Celeste Illian provided a brief overview on the reports from the Maternal Mortality Review Committee and March of Dimes. **The Maternal Mortality Review Committee report has not been completely vetted at this point, so members were asked not to share the data with anyone.** When it is available, it will be posted on the website. The topic of violence against women was not included in the report to the same extent as other data, so members are encouraged to reach out to Celeste for more information.

Janelle Ali-Dinar gave a presentation on current national and international work around women's health initiatives.

Subcommittee Report-Outs:

Membership Committee: The current member list of the Council can be found on the website at <https://dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/Womens-Health-Initiatives-Contact-Us.aspx>

Legislative Committee: Victoria gave a review of the Committee's progress in 2023. **The ice cream social will be held on 1/24/24 from 2-4 pm. Janelle will be heading the planning of the ice cream social. In preparation for the social, each member will introduce themselves to 2 senators, talk about what the Council does, and provide high priority areas that the Council is concerned about. The last day bills can be introduced is 1/17/24.** Members may donate money for the event if they are willing and able. **Kate, Victoria and Janelle will meet right after the first of the year to talk about the logistics of the social. Victoria will schedule this meeting.** Other members can join this meeting if they are able.

Strategic Planning Committee: Kate reminded members to review the Council's strategic planning documents. Janelle and Kate will reach out to several potential organizations the Council can partner with. The Council identified outcomes from the meeting that we will note to have included on the annual report for 2024. Outcomes from this meeting include reaching out to potential partners and the ice cream social plan. Topics to think about for future discussion, based on data presented, are syphilis, doulas, access to mental healthcare, violence against women, and nurse midwifery. Organizations to contact again include Black Doulas, IB Black Girl, Nebraska Rural Health Association, Nebraska Appleseed, Omaha Women's Fund, and Nomi NE. Janelle will reach out to the Nebraska Hospital Association, Nebraska Medical Association, Nebraska Pharmacy Association, and Milk Works.

Next Agenda Topics:

Potential speaker for future meeting: Director with the 988 Suicide Prevention Lifeline.

Next Meeting:

The next meeting will be virtual and held on February 1st, 2024, from 1-3 pm via Webex.

Adjourn:

Meeting adjourned at 2:58 pm by Kate Fiandt.

Minutes by Leah Snyder