

Women's Health Initiative Advisory Council Meeting

Meeting Minutes

December 11, 2024, 10-12 am

The meeting of the Women's Health Advisory Council (WHAC) was called to order at 10:01 am by Kathryn (Kate) Fiandt, Chair. The meeting was held at the Nebraska State Office Building at 301 Centennial Mall South, Lincoln, NE 68509.

In accordance with § 84-1411 of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act, copies of the agenda were 1) e-mailed to the Board members. The 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 at least 10 days before the meeting.

Roll Call (Introductions)

Members Present:

Kathryn Fiandt
Victoria Vinton
Janelle Ali-Dinar
Jennifer Severe-Oforah
Timothy Tesmer
Erica Anderson

Members Absent:

Ebony Byars

DHHS Staff Present:

Tina Goodwin
Melissa Leypoldt
Leah Snyder
Alycia Davis

Guest:

Bayley Bischof

Quorum was present.

Approval of Meeting Minutes:

Kate asked for additions or corrections to the August 30, 2024 meeting minutes and there were none. Janelle motioned to approve the minutes and Victoria seconded. In favor: Kate Fiandt, Victoria Vinton, Janelle Ali-Dinar, Timothy Tesmer, Erica Anderson, and Jennifer Severe-Oforah. Opposed: none. Abstentions: none. Absent: Ebony Byars. The minutes were approved as presented.

DHHS Report Outs:

Jennifer announced Celeste Illian's resignation from DHHS. The Title V block grant's Maternal Child Health Program is conducting a new needs assessment for the next five years. Jennifer talked about the focus of the program for this next grant period.

Melissa gave an update on the Women's and Men's Health Program with a focus on the recent rebranding.

Subcommittee Report-Outs:

Membership Committee: See membership and vacancy update below.

Legislative Committee: Victoria gave an overview of the subcommittee's process for reviewing bills and mentioned the 1 bill that the Council supported that passed last session: LB 857. She gave a brief report on the ice cream social held in February 2024.

Strategic Planning Committee: The Council is not focusing on this area at this time.

Membership and Vacancy Update:

Janelle stressed the importance of the work of the Council. She detailed her efforts to reach out to the Governor's office, the purpose behind them, and the results of those efforts.

Future Initiatives:

The Council would like to have a women's health policy conference, but no action has been taken on this at this time. There was a brief discussion about the feasibility of conducting such an event.

The Council discussed the next steps for planning the next ice cream social. Janelle will provide possible dates for the Council to consider. There was consensus taken among non-DHHS members present about whether to move forward with their plan.

Committee Discussions:

1. Legislative reports: Victoria gave a comment about the Council's lack of a legislative report for 2024 due to timing of staff turnover within Women's Health Initiative and lack of quorum for two of the planned meetings in 2024.
2. Council members asked how they can best support the work of DHHS. Suggestions made were serving on the Title V needs assessment mentioned by Jennifer earlier, informing the state about other potential partners who could help increase enrollment in DHHS programs, and informing the state on research that is being done.

Public Comments:

Further introduction of Bayley Bischof and she explained why she was present. She recorded the meeting and is looking at doing a story about the Women's Health Advisory Council.

Next Meeting:

There was no discussion about the next Council meeting.

Kate asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Janelle motioned to adjourn, and Victoria seconded. In favor: Kate Fiandt, Victoria Vinton, Janelle Ali-Dinar, Timothy Tesmer, Erica Anderson, and Jennifer Severe-Oforah. Opposed: none. Abstentions: none. Absent: Ebony Byars.

Meeting adjourned at 11:24 am by Kate Fiandt.

Minutes by Leah Snyder