

Women's Health Initiative Advisory Council meeting
Meeting Minutes
October 27, 2022

The meeting of the Women's Health Advisory Council (WHAC) was called to order at 1:20 pm by Rachel Hays, Chair. The meeting was held in person and via Zoom. The in-person location for the meeting was the UNMC-Center for Nursing Sciences (CNS) Building, Room 40120, located at 4101 Dewey Ave Omaha, NE.

Roll Call (Introductions)

Members attending in-person:

Rachel Hays
Julie Tabor
Victoria Vinton
Erica Anderson
Samantha Kenning
Kate Fiandt

Members absent:

Dr. Gary Anthonie
Bethany Arnold
Tami DeBonis
Amber Grob
Celeste Illian
Sara Morgan
Rachel Thompson

Members attending via Zoom

Ashley Carroll
Ebony Byars

DHHS Staff Attending in-person:

Shirley Pickens-White
Leah Snyder

Rachel Hays made the announcement in reference to the Open Meetings Act.

Since Ashley Carroll is not renewing her membership, the position for co-chair of the council and chair of the legislative sub-committee is open.

Rachel Hays made a change to the agenda: There is no speaker lined up today.

There was a discussion about whether this meeting can be considered an in-person meeting, whether we are still in a public health emergency, and whether we have a quorum present. It was determined that we are in a public health emergency, and we do have a quorum present, so the meeting can proceed as an in-person meeting.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Motion: Kate made the motion to approve the minutes for the July 28, 2022, meeting of the Women's Health Advisory Council and Julie seconded it. Voting yes: Rachel, Julie, Victoria, Samantha, Kate, Ashley, and Ebony. Voting no: none. Abstentions: Erica (assuming she didn't vote since she is a new member). Absent, Dr. Anthonie, Bethany, Tami, Amber, Celeste, Sara, and Rachel Thompson. **Motion carried.**

Vacancies:

Shirley gave an update on the vacancies. They are as follows: APRN from a rural community, consumer aged 41-65, consumer aged 66 or older, OBGYN, pediatrician, and volunteer representative. Kate mentioned a possible candidate for the APRN position, who already applied. Tami had also mentioned that she knew of someone who had applied. Kate, Victoria, and Ebony all suggested ways the word could get out about vacancies. Kate expressed concern about the time it takes to hear back from the governor's office about applications and the fact that we are getting duplicate or repeated applications. She took the responsibility of getting information to all organizations for the purpose of recruitment. Shirley mentioned where the application can be found.

Public Comment/ Update on past public comments/DHHS report-outs: There were no public comments or updates on past public comments. Shirley gave the update on DHHS staffing changes in the Department of Public Health and other divisions. She introduced Leah Snyder as the new administrative assistant for the Women's Health Advisory Council who will be taking over Christine Esch's role.

Chair and Co-Chair Council Vacancies:

Rachel Hays asked for nominations for council co-chair of the council and legislative sub-committee chair. Kate nominated herself to the position of co-chair. Victoria nominated herself for chair of legislative sub-committee.

Motion: Victoria motioned for Kate to be co-chair and Ashley seconded. Voting yes: Rachel Hays, Julie, Victoria, Erica, Samantha, Kate, Ashley, and Ebony. Voting no: none. Abstentions: none. Absent: Dr. Anthone, Bethany, Tami, Amber, Celeste, Sara, Rachel Thompson. **Motion carried.**

Motion: Samantha motioned for Victoria to be chair of the legislative sub-committee and Kate seconded. Voting yes: Rachel Hays, Julie, Victoria, Erica, Samantha, Kate, Ashley, and Ebony. Voting no: none. Abstentions: none. Absent: Dr. Anthone, Bethany, Tami, Amber, Celeste, Sara, Rachel Thompson. **Motion carried.**

Sub-Committee Updates:

Legislative Sub-committee: Ashley gave the update and talked about her experience at the Association of Women's Health Obstetric and Neonatal Nurse (AWHONN) conference. Ebony followed with her experience and Samantha gave some backstory to the conference. Ashley sent the AWHONN Fall conference evaluation to Rachel and Shirley. Ashley talked about an opportunity that came out of the meeting she and Ebony had with Senator Michaela Kavanaugh about ways to drive action in the WHAC. Senator Kavanaugh suggested having a candidate interview so that voters could know where candidates stood on various women's health issues, ahead of the November 8 election. Ashley and Julie both expressed their support for that idea but concern that the WHAC does not currently have the resources to implement this strategy. Kate expressed her interest in a focus more on older women over the age of 65 and rural practitioners. Ashley suggested that since the legislative session is going to begin in January, this sub-committee should meet more often, so that they can stay ahead of the many new bills being introduced. Ashley also had done some research into other WHACs across the state, and she found that ours is in line with most of them. She gave some suggestions for ways our WHAC could improve. Kate asked Ashley to share her PowerPoint presentation from the AWHONN conference. Kate also suggested we create a neutral file sharing/drive for information, as Ashley owns the current one.

Strategic Planning Sub-Committee: Rachel Hays gave the update for this sub-committee.

General Discussion:

Rachel Hays opened it up again for comments on report-out for WHAC membership. Shirley mentioned Janelle Ali-Dinar, the CEO of Ponca Health Services as the recent member that has filled the rural practitioner role.

Rachel Hays announced sub-committee breakout time and asked if there was interest. Victoria expressed interest. Ten minutes was allotted for breakout time. During breakout time, Rachel reviewed membership and council information with Erica. Shirley mentioned that mileage reimbursement forms are available for those who are interested.

Next Meeting:

There was a discussion about the next meeting, which will be held virtually on January 26, 2023. The time will be 1-4 pm. The location was not determined.

Adjourned:

Rachel Hays adjourned the meeting at 3:11 pm

Meeting minutes by Leah Snyder

