

## Women's Health Initiative Advisory Council Meeting

### Meeting Minutes

February 1, 2024, 1-3 pm

The meeting of the Women's Health Advisory Council (WHAC) was called to order at 1:09 pm by Kathryn (Kate) 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 1/24/2024.*

#### **Roll Call (Introductions)**

##### **Members Present:**

Kate Fiandt  
Erica Anderson  
Celeste Illian  
Samantha Kenning  
Victoria Vinton  
Janelle Ali-Dinar  
Timothy Tesmer

##### **Members Absent:**

Tami DeBonis  
Rachel Thompson  
Ebony Byars  
Jennifer Severe-Oforah

##### **DHHS Staff Present:**

Shirley Pickens-White  
Leah Snyder

#### **Approval of Meeting Minutes:**

Kate asked for additions or corrections to December 7, 2023, meeting minutes and there were none. Kate moved to approve the minutes. In favor: Kate Fiandt, Erica Anderson, Samantha Kenning, Victoria Vinton, Janelle Ali-Dinar, Timothy Tesmer, Celeste Illian. Opposed: none. Abstentions: none. Absent: Tami DeBonis, Rachel Thompson, Ebony Byars, Jennifer Severe-Oforah.

#### **Public Comments**

There were no public comments or outstanding past public comments.

#### **DHHS Report Outs:**

None.

#### **Membership and Vacancy Update:**

DHHS is still working with governor's office to get appointments. Clarification on recent email sent to Council members about statute rule on quorum for meetings.

#### **Upcoming Social Event: Ice cream Social at the State Capitol:**

Janelle spoke on the upcoming ice cream social. **The ice cream social will be on February 23, 2024, from 2:30-4:30 at the Mulberry Café at the State Capitol**, formally known as the Capitol Café. The event is posted with the State Senators legislative clerk in signage internally and through their email system and social media. **The set up for the event is at 2 pm.** The event will be physical attendance only; there will not be a virtual attendance option. **Council members are asked to give confirmation of their attendance to Janelle by February 7th.** The Council is expecting 60 people in attendance. **An invitation will be created and emailed to the Senators by February 7<sup>th</sup>.** Each Council member will be mentioned by name at the social by those members in attendance.

Partner organizations that will be in attendance are I Be Black Girl, the Malone Center, Nebraska Rural Health Association, and Nebraska Appleseed. The Council is waiting to hear a confirmation of attendance from the Omaha Women's Fund. Additionally, at least two members of the Governor's office will be in attendance.

**Members are asked to personally contact their Senator and invite him or her to attend the social.**

There was a discussion about whether the event needs to be publicly posted, to comply with the Open Meetings Act. **A summary note on the social will be sent to all Council members.**

#### **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>**

The membership committee has not met and is waiting to meet again until they see movement in the governor's office, regarding approving applications. They are currently not soliciting applications.

#### **Legislative Committee:**

Discussion of bills from list of bills compiled by Victoria Vinton.

The Council voted on whether to support the following bills that are on the table with the Nebraska Legislature.

LB 115: Victoria motioned; Samantha seconded. In favor: Kate Fiandt, Erica Anderson, Samantha Kenning, Victoria Vinton, Janelle Ali-Dinar. Opposed: none. Abstentions: Timothy Tesmer and Celeste Illian. Absent: Tami DeBonis, Rachel Thompson, Ebony Byars, Jennifer Severe-Oforah. **Motion carried.**

LB 1124: Victoria motioned; Janelle seconded. In favor: Kate Fiandt, Erica Anderson, Samantha Kenning, Victoria Vinton, Janelle Ali-Dinar. Opposed: none. Abstentions: Timothy Tesmer and Celeste Illian. Absent: Tami DeBonis, Rachel Thompson, Ebony Byars, Jennifer Severe-Oforah. **Motion carried.**

LB 913: Victoria motioned; Janelle seconded. In favor: Kate Fiandt,

Erica Anderson, Samantha Kenning, Victoria Vinton, Janelle Ali-Dinar. Opposed: none. Abstentions: Timothy Tesmer and Celeste Illian. Absent: Tami DeBonis, Rachel Thompson, Ebony Byars, Jennifer Severe-Oforah. **Motion carried.**

LB 714: Victoria motioned; Janelle seconded. In favor: Kate Fiandt, Erica Anderson, Samantha Kenning, Victoria Vinton, Janelle Ali-Dinar. Opposed: none. Abstentions: Timothy Tesmer and Celeste Illian. Absent: Tami DeBonis, Rachel Thompson, Ebony Byars, Jennifer Severe-Oforah. **Motion carried.**

LB 248: Victoria motioned; Janelle seconded. In favor: Kate Fiandt, Erica Anderson, Samantha Kenning, Victoria Vinton, Janelle Ali-Dinar. Opposed: none. Abstentions: Timothy Tesmer and Celeste Illian. Absent: Tami DeBonis, Rachel Thompson, Ebony Byars, Jennifer Severe-Oforah. **Motion carried.**

LB 1139 (Council supported this one last year): Victoria motioned; Janelle seconded. In favor: Kate Fiandt, Erica Anderson, Samantha Kenning, Victoria Vinton, Janelle Ali-Dinar. Opposed: none. Abstentions: Timothy Tesmer and Celeste Illian. Absent: Tami DeBonis, Rachel Thompson, Ebony Byars, Jennifer Severe-Oforah. **Motion carried.**

LB 290: Victoria motioned; Samantha seconded. In favor: Kate Fiandt, Erica Anderson, Samantha Kenning, Victoria Vinton, Janelle Ali-Dinar. Opposed: none. Abstentions: Timothy Tesmer and Celeste Illian. Absent: Tami DeBonis, Rachel Thompson, Ebony Byars, Jennifer Severe-Oforah. **Motion carried.**

LB 145: Victoria motioned; Janelle seconded. In favor: Erica Anderson, Samantha Kenning, Janelle Ali-Dinar. Opposed: Victoria Vinton, Kate Fiandt. Abstentions: Timothy Tesmer, Celeste Illian. Absent: Tami DeBonis, Rachel Thompson, Ebony Byars, Jennifer Severe-Oforah. **Motion carried.**

LB 85: Victoria motioned; Janelle seconded. After discussion, the Council will not be supporting this bill at this time. **Motion not carried.**

LB 1109: Victoria motioned; Samantha seconded. In favor: Kate Fiandt, Erica Anderson, Samantha Kenning, Victoria Vinton, Janelle Ali-Dinar. Opposed: none. Abstentions: Timothy Tesmer and Celeste Illian. Absent: Tami DeBonis, Rachel Thompson, Ebony Byars, Jennifer Severe-Oforah. **Motion carried.**

LB 857: Victoria motioned; Janelle seconded. In favor: Kate Fiandt, Erica Anderson, Samantha Kenning, Victoria Vinton, Janelle Ali-Dinar. Opposed: none. Abstentions: Timothy Tesmer and Celeste Illian. Absent: Tami DeBonis, Rachel Thompson, Ebony Byars, Jennifer Severe-Oforah. **Motion carried.**

LB 328: Janelle motioned; Erica seconded. In favor: Kate Fiandt, Erica Anderson, Samantha Kenning, Victoria Vinton, Janelle Ali-Dinar. Opposed: none. Abstentions: Timothy Tesmer and Celeste Illian. Absent: Tami DeBonis, Rachel Thompson, Ebony Byars, Jennifer Severe-Oforah. **Motion carried.**

LB 1278: Victoria motioned; Janelle seconded. In favor: Kate Fiandt, Erica Anderson, Samantha Kenning, Victoria Vinton, Janelle Ali-Dinar. Opposed: none. Abstentions: Timothy Tesmer and Celeste Illian. Absent: Tami DeBonis, Rachel Thompson, Ebony Byars, Jennifer Severe-Oforah. **Motion carried.**

**Strategic Planning Committee:** No report outs currently.

**Next Meeting:**

**The next meeting will be on May 2nd, 2024, from 1-3 pm, in person. The location is still to be determined.**

Meeting adjourned at 2:48 pm by Kate Fiandt.

Minutes by Leah Snyder