

**Women’s Health Initiatives Advisory Council Meeting  
Meeting Minutes  
August 26, 2021**

The meeting of the Women’s Health Initiatives Advisory Council was called to order at 1:04 p.m. by Rachel Hays, Chair via WebEx. The meeting was held In-Person and via Web-Ex. The In-person located for the meeting was Conference Room LLB, of the Nebraska State Office Building, located at 301 Centennial Mall South, Lincoln, Nebraska.

**ROLL CALL (Introductions)**

Members attending Via WebEx:

Ashley Carroll  
Kathryn “Kate” Fiandt  
Elizabeth Hallgren  
Rachel Hays  
Kayleigh Lewandowski  
Sara Morgan

Also attending via WebEx:

Shirley Pickens-White, DHHS Staff  
Christine Esch, DHHS Staff

Members Absent

Dr. Gary Anthone  
Dr. Robert Drvol  
Elizabeth Mollard

A quorum was present.

Hays made the following announcement in reference to the Open Meeting Act.

*Open Meeting Act Location Announcement: In accordance with Section 84-1412 of the Nebraska Revised Statutes, a copy of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act is located with the Office of Women’s Health Initiative staff. The Women’s Health Advisory Council Meeting Notice along with the agenda posted on the Public Meeting Calendar – August 9, 2021.*

**Approval of Meeting Minutes:**

Fiandt made the motion to accept the meeting minutes of the April 14, 2021, seconded by Carroll.

### **Vacancies:**

Nine names submitted to the Governor's office in hopes that they would be appointed by the August 26, 2021 meeting. Possible that new appointees could be announced by the next meeting. Three positions to be filled once these appointments are made:

1. Insurance Industry Representative
2. OB/GYN Representative
3. Health Care Consumer-66 & older

Members discussed adding more members to the Councils and steps for doing that.

Lewandowski suggested adding a Native representative. Halgren will follow up to see about getting some recommendations. There was also a suggestion to add someone from the African American community, as well as the rural communities.

Below is the link to the Governor's website for application for Executive Appointment:

<https://governor.nebraska.gov/board-comm-req>

### **Legislative Update/Nomination for Chairperson/Speaking to Senators:**

Carroll elected as the Chairperson of the Legislative Committee. She provided a brief update:

- This year is a short Legislative session.
- Some of the bills that were mentioned for the session include:
  - LR 221 Maternal Mortality and Morbidity
  - LR 143 Mental and Behavioral needs of Nebraska
  - LR 881 Home Visiting Study
  - LR 142 Maternal Depression in Nebraska
  - LR 190 Temporary Assistance for Needy Families

Carroll and Fiandt suggested speakers/presenters for upcoming meetings:

1. Senators to share their priorities and give the members feedback on women's health
2. Community based organizations such as:
  - a. Omaha Women's Fund,
  - b. Woman investing in Nebraska,
  - c. Voices of Children,
  - d. Nebraska Children and Families Foundation
  - e. Lutheran Family Services,

Carroll will invite Omaha Women's Fund to the next meeting.

### **Survey and Data Results for the "Strategic Planning:"**

Hays suggested that members take time to review and submit survey before the next meeting.

Once the new members are appointed, the survey will be sent to them. Carroll asked for feedback on the survey:

- Did you have enough information to complete the survey?
- What other data did you want on the survey?
- Did you look at the issue briefs?

Shirley will re-send copies of the following to the members:

- 1) Issue Briefs

- 2) Documents from Carroll-Women's Fund Report, DV Report, Kids Count, etc
- 3) Survey link

**Agenda Topics for next meeting:**

1. Roll Call (Introduction) and Approval of Meeting Minutes
2. Update of Vacancies
3. Legislative Update
4. Discussion: Finalize Sub committees
5. Presentation: "Strategic Planning/Survey"
6. Presentation: "Women's Fund"
7. Brainstorming for the next WHAC meeting
8. Public Comment
9. Adjourned

**Brainstorming and Location for the WHAC meeting:**

Hays suggested that the next meeting be held via WebEx. The next meeting is scheduled for October 28, 2021 from 1:00p - 4:00p.

Meeting was adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Christine Esch