

Minutes

Women's Health Initiatives Advisory Council Meeting
January 13, 2021

In Attendance

Elizabeth Hallgren
Rachel Hays
Susan Jeffrey
Mary Larsen
Kayleigh Lewandowski
Elizabeth Mollard
Ellen Zoeller

Absent

Linda Becker
Dr. Drvol
Kathryn 'Kate' Findt
Sara Morgan
Marcia Merboth
Sylvia Gregory-Witherspoon
Terra Uhing
Christine Gunther
Dr. Gary Anthone

Staff

Shirley Pickens-White
Christine Esch

Guest Speakers:

Jackie Moline
Michelle Borg

Mary Larsen called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m., and reviewed the Open Meetings 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 - January 4, 2021.

Introductions, Approval of Minutes and Vacancies:

Introductions made by members and staff. Two guests also introduced:

1. Jackie Moline
2. Michelle Borg

Since quorum was met, Susan Jeffrey made a motion to accept the meeting minutes from the October 14, 2020 and Ellen Zoeller seconded the motion. Vacancies were discussed. There will be eight members whose terms will be ending in June of 2021. Staff will make direct contact with those members at a later date.

Legislative Committee Update:

Ellen Zoeller provided the Legislative Committee update. The new Legislative session started in January. In Nebraska, there is no year round Legislative session and at the beginning of the each year they:

1. Introduce Bills
2. Debate Bills
3. Approve Bills

Bills introduced during the first ten days of the session. Those will be published on the Legislative's website. Ellen stated that the Legislative committee will meet to discuss priorities for 2021. The Legislative works in a two year cycle the first year is a longer 90 day session. The second year is the shorter session and it is where any of the bills that didn't get passed in the first year would still be active and be discussed. The committee will prioritize three to five bills. Please let Ellen know if you are interested in joining the committee. Current members are:

- Ellen Zoeller
- Mary Larsen
- Marcia Merboth
- Susan Jeffrey
- Rachel Hays

Mary Larsen suggested that it may be a good idea to find out who your State Senator is. . The Legislative website address is <https://www.nebraskalegislature.gov/>.

Presentation: COVID and Pregnancy:

Jackie Moline gave a presentation on COVID and Pregnancy. National and State data shared on current COVID rates.`

- COVID-19 National cases shows 22,322,956 total positive cases and 373,167 deaths.
- COVID-19 Nebraska cases shows 176,670 total positive cases and 1,772 deaths

During the Covid-19 pandemic it had shown that pregnant women are in the increase risk category for server illness and death. Pregnant women can also have:

- Obesity
- High Blood Pressure
- Heart Problems
- Asthma
- Diabetes

There are no signs and symptoms difference in Covid-19 if a woman is pregnant or non-pregnant but, the treatments are different and they are:

- ❖ Uterine and Fetal Mentoring
- ❖ Individualized delivery planning
- ❖ Multispecialty, Team based Approach that includes obstetric and maternal-fetal medicine
- ❖ Medication Review for safety to both mom and baby

The CDC data showed pregnant women with Covid-19 between January 22, 2020-January 4, 2021 that have been reported:

- 53,641 total cases
- 62 deaths

The age group of pregnant women that were most affected from Covid-19 were:

- 25-29 age group
- 30-34 age group
- 20-24 age group

The CDC Data Tracker showed that 9,619 pregnant women that had Covid-19 cases was hospitalized. It also stated that:

- 317 were admitted to the ICU
- 85 required invasive ventilation
- 19 required ECMO (extracorporeal membrane oxygenation)

Infants born term and preterm to pregnant women with Covid-19 between March 29 2020-December 8, 2020 were:

- Term (37 weeks and over)

- Pre-term (before 37 weeks)

If a pregnant woman is breastfeeding and she is positive and the baby is negative for Covid-19 then she can still continue to breastfeed which is the best thing and it provides nutrition. When a pregnant woman and baby are both positive with Covid-19 then there are no special precaution when breastfeeding except that they both need to be isolated from other people in the household. ACOG recommends that Covid-19 vaccines “should not be withheld from pregnant individuals” and offered to lactating individuals similar to non-lactating individuals.

Workgroup/Committee Update:

There was discussion on refocusing the current and getting focus on how to implement some groups where members are more active in different topics. Some of the topic areas discussed were:

- Healthy Aging
- Legislative Committee
- Mental Health
- Sexual Health

Strategic Planning:

Michelle Borg discussed “Strategic Planning”. . The first part of the planning with the Council will focus on:

1. The Mission statement
2. The Guidelines
3. next steps from there

It was stated that having a “conversation” within the Council would be a good way to start the planning process and to get an action plan going. These are some ideas for doing a Strategic Plan:

- Identify the goals
- Prioritize on what can be accomplished
- Resources
- Support
- External Partners
- How to develop an action plan?
- What can be done in a short term?
- What can be done in a long term?
- Equitable access

Michelle stated that she was never involved in any “Strategic” process that has not resulted in “unintentional outcome” or “intentional outcome.” Some of the next steps for the Strategic plan are:

- Evaluate
- How “effective” the approach has been?
- What are the outcomes?
- Achieving the goals

The Council will need to:

- Shape the “Strategic plan” journey
- Determine how the Council moves forward
- When to hold back
- Evaluate
- Refine the work

The discussion was to use the mission to help the Council go forward in the “Strategic Plan.”

Planning for the next WHAC meeting:

Mary asked if members if member’s I had anything to collaborate on, share topics or how to prioritize work.

The following ideas were presented by Mary:

- 17-P and preterm birth
- Preconception Health
- More on “Strategic Planning”

Public Comments:

There was no public comments.

The next Women’s Health Advisory Council “zoom” meeting will be on April 14, 2021 from 1:00-4:00p.

Minutes submitted by Christine Esch