

## **Minutes**

Women's Health Initiative Advisory Council  
Wednesday, October 9, 2019

### **In Attendance:**

Kristine Follett  
Susan Jeffery  
Mary Larsen  
Sara Morgan  
Ellen Zoeller

### **Absent:**

Shirley Blanchard  
Cynthia Cusick  
Christine Gunether  
Brenda McIntosh  
Marcia Merboth  
Babz Moffett  
Terra Uhing

### **Staff:**

Andrea Wenke  
Shirley Pickens White  
Christine Esch

Mary Larsen called the Women's Health Advisory Council (Council) meeting to order at 1:15p.m., and referred to the Open Meetings Act with the members.

*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 on the table near the door.*

### **Introductions, Approval of Minutes:**

Council members and staff introduced themselves. Since quorum was not met at the previous Council meetings, Mary did suggest to approve the minutes at the next Council meeting on January 8, 2020.

### **Vacancies Update:**

Shirley Pickens-White went over the vacancies update with the Council. Shirley stated that Dr. Gary Anthone is the new Chief Medical officer at DHHS and a new appointee to the Council. Shirley mentioned that there were four other new members that the Governor appointed and the new Council appointees will be invited to the next meeting that will be on January 8, 2020. Shirley said that there were two Council members' applications pending and still waiting on the status of those applications from the Governor office.

### **Legislative Committee Update:**

Ellen Zoeller gave the legislative committee update to the Council. Ellen mentioned this was the 90 day long legislative session for 2019 and next year will be the shorter 60 day legislative session. Ellen did comment that some of the legislative bills that didn't pass will be carried forward into next year and the legislative committee may or may not choose to support those bills. The next legislative session is on January 8, 2020 and the new bills are introduced in the first ten days of the 60 day session. Ellen stated that the legislative committee will meet after the first ten day session to discuss the legislative bills that they want to support. Ellen went over the members who were in the legislative committee workgroup and they are:

- Kristine Follett
- Christine Guenther
- Mary Larsen

- Brenda McIntosh
- Marcia Merboth
- Babz Moffett

Ellen went over the four bills that the legislative committee had chosen and none were sign into law. The legislative bills were:

- LB170 - Provide a sales and use tax exemption for feminine hygiene products
- LB249 - Change the statute of limitations for civil actions arising from a sexual assault
- LB311 - Adopt the Paid Family and Medical Leave Insurance Act
- LB498 - Provide for medical assistance coverage of family planning services as prescribed

Ellen stated that these bills could be discussed at the next legislative committee meeting.

### **Maternal Behavioral Health Conference Update:**

Andrea discussed the Material Behavioral Health Conference with the Council. Andrea stated that the conference was a successful event and went over some of the topics that each speaker presented at the 2019 conference. Each Council member received the save-the-date handout for the next Material Behavioral Health Conference that will be held on April 7, 2020. Andrea did mention that the national speaker Dr. Ira Chasnoff will present two sessions on the topics of Fetal Alcohol Syndrome and Marijuana and Meth Use and the effects on the pregnancy and child at the next Material Behavioral Health Conference in 2020.

### **Presentation: “Senior Nutrition-Women’s Health”**

Erik White from the State Unit on Aging gave a presentation on “Senior Nutrition-Women’s Health.” He talked about some topics on nutrition and aging with the Council. Erik stated that the goals and purpose for the nutrition program are:

1. Reduce hunger through insecurity of older adults
2. Promote socialization of older adults
3. Promote the health and wellbeing of older adults as they age

Nutrition services is just one program that State Unit of Aging has to better serve the population and they basically get reimbursed for the number of meals that are provided to individuals for the State of Nebraska.

### **Minority Health Conference Update:**

Shirley Pickens White mentioned to the Council that she attended the Minority Health Conference in April of 2019. Shirley stated that the Minority Health Conference did some sessions on:

- Building Healthy and Resilient Communities
- Maternal and Child Health Priorities in Nebraska
- Intellectual/Development Disabilities
- Creating Alliances for a Health Community

Shirley mentioned that she will send the Council members information on the next Minority Health Conference which is in April of 2020.

**Annual Report:**

Andrea discussed the annual report with the Council members. Andrea mentioned some topics that dealt with “Emerging Issues and Trends in Women’s Health” to the Council. Some of the topics that were discussed:

1. Breastfeeding Report Card
2. The State of STD’s in Nebraska
3. Percent of Nebraska Women who are Overweight
4. Smoking in Nebraska

Shirley Pickens White discussed getting some ideas from the Council members on different types of data information for the next annual report.

**Workgroup updates:**

Mary stated that the legislative workgroup was the only workgroup that did give an update to the Council. There were no workgroup updates on:

1. Sexual Health
2. Healthy Aging
3. Mental Health

Mary discussed about putting the workgroup updates on the next agenda for the January 8, 2020 meeting.

**Planning for the next Women’s Health Advisory Council meeting:**

The Council members decide to have the next Women’s Health Advisory Council (Council) meeting on:

1. January 8, 2020 (1:00-4:00)
2. April 8, 2020 (1:00-4:00)
3. July 8, 2020 (1:00-4:00)
4. October 14, 2020 (1:00-4:00)

The location for the Women’s Health Advisory Council will be at the Carol Joy Hollings in Ashland Ne.

**Public Comments:**

There was no public comment

Meeting Adjourned: 4:00

Christine Esch