

**Missouri Women’s Health Council**  
**Webex**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**June 10, 2020**

<b>Members Present</b>	Karlyle Christian Ritter, Karen Edison, Sue Kendig, Bridget McCandless, Mary McLennan, Melissa Terry, Sandra Jackson, Denise Willers, Rachel Winograd, Denise Wilfley, Wendy Doyle
<b>Members Absent</b>	Paula Baker, Colleen Coble, Eboni January, Sherry Maxwell, Katie Towns, Emily van Schenkhof
<b>Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS) Staff</b>	Randall Williams, Karen Kliethermes, Mindy Laughlin, Tracy Henson
<b>Department of Social Services Staff (DSS)</b>	Jessica Dresner
<b>Guests</b>	Reggi Rideout

<b>Topic/Presenter</b>	<b>Discussion</b>
<b>Department of Health and Senior Services Update</b>	<p>Dr. Williams gave an update on COVID-19 in Missouri. Missouri had its first positive case of COVID-19 on March 7<sup>th</sup>, with positive cases peaking on April 7<sup>th</sup>. Missouri partially re-opened on May 4<sup>th</sup>. The Governor will hold a press conference June 11<sup>th</sup> to talk about next steps. Dr. Williams stated there are about 8,000 tests a day being performed with hospitalizations at an all-time low for COVID-19. He indicated the Governor's efforts are focused on the four pillars – testing, personal protective equipment (PPE), hospitals, and data. Missouri has received 300,000 PCR tests, 30,000 antibody tests, and very few of the antigen tests. Data analytics is available at <a href="https://health.mo.gov/coronavirus">health.mo.gov/coronavirus</a>. Missouri has been a national thought leader on getting Remdesivir out into the hands of clinicians. Missouri has received four allocations of Remdesivir, with the National Guard delivering it statewide within four to five hours. Dr. Williams said they are concentrating their resources on a boxed in strategy. They are currently testing in 204 nursing homes in Missouri.</p> <p>Dr. Williams remains concerned about the disparities seen both in COVID-19 and the unrest in Kansas City and Saint Louis. Dr. Williams talked about the Missouri state budget and a cut to a fair number of resources funded by General Revenue.</p> <p>Dr. Williams said the Department will be putting out a press release next week about maternal mortality, and encouraged the Council members to read the Pregnancy-Associated Mortality Review (PAMR) Board’s first annual report. The report is available at <a href="https://health.mo.gov/data/pamr/pdf/annual-report-2020.pdf">https://health.mo.gov/data/pamr/pdf/annual-report-2020.pdf</a>.</p> <p>Dr. Williams thanked the Council for their continued leadership. He stated the need to continue to be incredibly proactive and vigilant with COVID-19 going into Fall.</p> <p>Action: Mindy Laughlin will share the PAMR report with the Council.</p>

<p><b>Department of Social Services Update</b></p>	<p>Jessica Dresner reported on the state plan/waiver documents located at <a href="https://dss.mo.gov/covid-19/mhn-provider.htm">https://dss.mo.gov/covid-19/mhn-provider.htm</a>. MO HealthNet submitted a request to extend coverage for those age 19-64 diagnosed with COVID-19 and are waiving face-to-face visit requirements, client signatures, flexibilities around prior authorization, personal care service authorization, timely filing requirements, and provider enrollment and validation efforts. She indicated the second waiver requested waived the timeline to cover sterilizations.</p> <p>Jessica reported that representatives from each of the state departments, as well as community partners, meet three times a week. The initial focus was on the healthcare delivery system and addressing it, keeping it sustainable, and addressing capacity issues. It has evolved into an effort around economic recovery and reopening the state, with healthcare being a big piece of it. The conversations are about efforts around the four pillars of what the Governor has stated are going to be necessary in the foundation to economic recovery. Jessica talked about the testing pillar and indicated it is the key to containing the virus, addressing it, and understanding prevalence. All of those things tie into when businesses can reopen or not, and when folks can get out in their communities or not, including visits with their healthcare providers. In order to increase the amount of testing, she said they wanted to first look at where they have some responsibility and also some control. The area of focus has been community sampling. The second area of focus has been on the state owned, congregate care facilities. The third area of focus has been around the long-term care facilities. Right now in Missouri, the median age of a person who is positive for COVID-19 is about 51. The median age of someone who dies from the virus is 78. Testing is a big effort with DHSS as the leaders. One of the things MO HealthNet has been working on to try and assist with COVID-19 testing is to get the barrier of payment out of the way. MO HealthNet has labs that have agreed to provide some testing capacity. However, the labs do not bill insurance and some long-term care facilities have been stuck with the lab bill and no idea how to get reimbursed. Or the facilities were afraid to do testing because they didn't think they would be able to cover the costs. MO HealthNet is in the process of setting up an invoicing system for the baseline and immediate follow-up testing. Jessica indicated the system is being tested now, and she expects that it will go live early next week.</p> <p>Jessica indicated that MO HealthNet did its first completely remote, automated payroll. They were successful in paying all providers.</p> <p>Action: Jessica will share the DHSS community testing site flyers.</p>
<p><b>Women's Health Network</b></p>	<p>Sue Kendig introduced Reggie Rideout with Simply Strategy. Reggie gave a PowerPoint presentation on "The Uplift Connection" (attached).</p>
<p><b>Other Items</b></p>	<p>Sue Kendig is drafting a brief statement to present to the Council regarding the issues that are occurring now around racial inequities, racism, and implicit biases. Sue discussed with Katherine Mathews and Bridget McCandless about the possibility of putting a statement out reminding the members of the Council's work to improve health and wellness for all women across the state. The Council is committed to a shared understanding and purpose in eliminating disparities in women's health outcomes. Sue asked if that resonated with the Council, and if so, what core values may be in that statement. A discussion followed. Sue asked for volunteers to help with the statement. Melissa Terry volunteered to help Sue with the crafting of the statement.</p>

	<p>Karlyle Christian Ritter announced that it looks like their baby box project is probably not going to get funded this year, and it will be on hold for a while.</p> <p>Bridget McCandless reminded the Council that the Medicaid Expansion vote has been moved from the November ballot to the August 4<sup>th</sup> ballot.</p> <p>Sue Kendig mentioned the Equitable Maternal Health Coalition at the national level worked with several national organizations to look specifically at issues impacting women’s health, birth outcomes and cost when women on Medicaid lose coverage after 60 days postpartum. The group compared cost and birth outcomes in selected Medicaid expansion versus non-Medicaid expansion states, including Missouri. The resulting toolkit is available at the Equitable Maternal Health Coalition website.</p> <p>Action: Sue will send the toolkit to Tracy Henson when it is released to share with the Council.</p> <p>Karen Edison said the two high-risk Obstetrical Extension for Community Healthcare Outcomes (OB ECHOs) have merged, and their name has changed to Missouri Moms and Babies. Also, the Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome (NAS) ECHO has been doing a lot of data-driven planning. She said they are going to provide incentives to smaller hospitals and smaller Neonatal Intensive Care Units (NICU’s) to bring their team to the ECHOs.</p> <p>Sue Kendig encouraged the Council to look at the legislative bills and initiatives that Colleen Coble shared by email this morning.</p>
<b>Adjourn</b>	The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m.
<b>Next Meeting</b>	September 16, 2020