

**Missouri Women’s Health Council**  
**Webex**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**February 16, 2022**

<b>Members Present</b>	Sue Kendig, Bridget McCandless, Karen Edison, Katherine Matthews, Sandra Jackson, Ebony January, Huvona Watkins, Brenda Higgins, Megan Simmons, Katie Towns
<b>Members Absent</b>	Paula Baker, Sherry Maxwell, Mary McLennan, Denise Willers, Melissa Terry, Wendy Doyle, Karlyle Christian Ritter
<b>Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS) Staff</b>	Sarah Ehrhard Reid, Tracy Henson, Martha Smith, Ashlie Otto, Richard Moore
<b>Department of Social Services Staff (DSS)</b>	Jessica Dresner
<b>Guests</b>	Mandy Hagseth

<b>Topic/Presenter</b>	<b>Discussion</b>
<b>Welcome</b>	Sue Kendig welcomed everyone to the Council meeting. Sue introduced Acting Director Richard Moore.
<b>Department of Health and Senior Services Update</b>	<p>Acting Director Moore indicated that he is here to listen to the Council and the statute contemplates that the Council will be a sounding board and a forum to discuss women’s issues and to educate him and other state leaders on what women in Missouri need. Acting Director Moore gave an overview of the Department structure and he also gave some background history.</p> <p>One of the key things the Department is working on at the moment is the transition from pandemic to endemic.</p> <p>Sue asked the Council if they had any questions for Acting Director Moore. Bridget asked to outline the five divisions in the Department. Acting Director Moore explained that there is the Director’s office, which is not actually a division, the general counsel’s office, the office of public information, the legislative arm. Then there is the Division of Administration, which does all the administrative type functions for a great deal of the department. They have the Division of Community and Public Health, which is by far the biggest division. There is the Division of Regulation and Licensure, that’s where all of the regulations of hospital, ambulatory surgical centers, all the licensing of long term care facilities. They then have the Division of Senior and Disability Services, which is what used to be a portion of the Medicaid program where they actually go in and do assessment of individuals for home and community bases services, adult protective services within that. The most recent addition, which is not a formal addition just yet, is the State Public Health Laboratory which is the premier place for the state for testing.</p> <p>Sue Kendig indicated the staff at the public health department, Sarah and Tracy, have been wonderful supporting the Council. Martha and Ashlie Otto and the people who are in the community and public health departments and working on maternal child and women’s health issues have been doing a phenomenal job. Sue and the Council are very supportive of the staff at the health department. Acting</p>

	<p>Director Moore indicated there is no desire to make any massive changes in the areas that they are most concerned about.</p> <p>Sue asked about the state health improvement plan and how the transition might impact that. Acting Director Moore could not speak to the current status.</p> <p>Sue talked about the Council priorities they put together annually that will be brought to the Department Director for any questions or concerns that need clarification. Then once the Director signs off on that, it's posted on the website as a public document and a product of the council.</p> <p>Sue mentioned kudos coming to Missouri and participation in the alliance on innovation and maternal health, which the health department is a core partner, and has done some innovative things in terms of not only looking at the medical care, but brining in the community pieces. There was a huge initiative around blood pressure monitoring because cardiovascular disease is something that women are dying from during pregnancy and during that first year, postpartum. Missouri has received national recognition for the effort to put forth effort during the pandemic to assure that people could monitor their blood pressure at home. Kudos are still coming and they are being contacted about other states looking at the model they used.</p> <p>There is a HRSA funded initiative called the Rural Maternity and Obstetrics Management Strategies Project. It was a three million dollar grant. There were only three awarded in the country during the first round, and the six counties in the boot heel region under the leadership of St. Francois Medical Center received that grant. What that is doing right now is creating a perinatal system of care that links not only the medical care, but all of those supporting agencies in the area. Some of the things they will be doing are putting in a digitized resource and referral platform that will link all of the providers as well as all of the community agencies, some care system coordination and many other activities. In round two, the Missouri Highlands area received that same grant. Out of six of those opportunities that were available in the country, Southeast Missouri is holding two, which means they have 13 contiguous counties working to develop a perinatal system of care that seeks to improve outcomes for both moms and babies.</p> <p>Sarah indicated that we have three new Council members and we will be updating the Women's Health Council Members Book digitally, but will not be printing out hard copies because the council has not been meeting in person. If current members who are already in the book want to update their photo or bio information please send that to Sarah by February 28<sup>th</sup>.</p> <p>There was a press release that went out about the work of the Council and talked about developing another document that could be put on the website and maybe sent to some of our partners letting everyone know that we are still here and talking about some of the work that they have done to drive some more traffic to the website.</p>
<p><b>Introductions of New Council Members</b></p>	<p>Sue asked for introductions.</p>

<p><b>Department of Social Services Update</b></p>	<p>Jessica talked about the pending applications since opening up expansion in October and also the marketplace applications that came in during November. They are taking a look at what the next step and the next goal will be. Jessica mentioned that Director Richardson believes the next group that family support will focus on is women who are on Medicaid for pregnant women and anticipating that there are a lot that will transfer to expansion.</p> <p>Katherine asked about women covered by Medicaid for pregnant women and being eligible for expansion. She wanted to know about the workload and making it as seamless as possible. Jessica gave some background information and will double check with Kim Evans. Bridget asked about the application and that the Department has been working hard to make that more streamlined and asked when that will be available to people where they can come in and be able to apply with a base set of date but for multiple programs? Jessie did not know the answer to that but that she did know it is still on the table. Megan asked about a jump of about 25,000 people in mid-December and asked if Jessica new what group that was? Someone mentioned in the chat box was the bump over to expansion the women in the 80/9 category? Jessie indicated that is what that was. Participants went from 45,000 in November to 17,000 in December. Sue asked about the call centers in the rural areas and there is an extremely long wait time and asked how that is being handled. They are asking for additional FTE for the division to get some relief there. Jessica also gave an update on Telehealth and a discussion followed.</p> <p>Jessica talked about maternal health at MO HealthNet. They are tracking the bills that were introduced and they have been combined now on the 12 months postpartum through the state plan option. They have put a work group together with them and family support. They have had their first meeting.</p> <p>The former maternal health coordinator at MO HealthNet had met with a lot of external stakeholders from some committees and subcommittees and different efforts. They want to take a more targeted approach on two things. Goal one is policy recommendations to the division and MO HealthNet and the second goal is better health outcomes. Jessica asked Lori Bushner to be the maternal health coordinator and to look at the different committees and different groups to see what they can shelve for a little bit and what they need to move ahead with and get reassigned out to someone else there at MO HealthNet. Jessica would like Lori Bushner to join her in attending the Women’s Health Council Meetings. Jessica will send Tracy and Sarah Lori’s email and they will include her on the meeting invitations.</p>
<p><b>Discussion of Priorities</b></p>	<p>Bridget gave an overview of the priorities document and a review and discussion followed. Bridget requested any changes by Friday, February 25<sup>th</sup>. Sarah will send the document out to the Council. Sarah will also send a Doodle Poll for the next Women’s Health Council Meeting.</p>
<p><b>Adjourn</b></p>	<p>The meeting was adjourned at 12:15 p.m.</p>
<p><b>Next Meeting</b></p>	<p>June 17, 2022</p>