

Missouri Women’s Health Council
Webex
Meeting Minutes
March 24, 2023

Members Present	Sue Kendig, Brenda Higgins, Megan Simmons, Cheryl Robb-Welch, Felisha Richards, Karyn Fowler, Katie Towns, Shavanna Spratt, Denise Wilfley, Sandra Jackson, Karlyle Christian Ritter
Members Absent	Wendy Doyle, Melissa Terry, Ebony January, Huvona Watkins
Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS) Staff	Pat Simmons, Sarah Ehrhard Reid, Martha Smith, Ashlie Otto
Department of Social Services Staff (DSS)	Jessica Dresner, Ashley Wilson
Guests	

Topic/Presenter	Discussion
Welcome and Introductions	Sue welcomed the Council and asked for introductions.
Department of Health and Senior Services Update	<p>Sarah gave an update for DHSS. Their work continues to be ongoing for the prevention of maternal mortality, improving women’s health and a range of women’s health work in their office. They started the last fiscal year with six new projects in addition to the existing work. They have successfully launched a new tobacco cessation program for moms statewide. Baby and Me Tobacco Free is via telehealth and participants can receive incentives via gift cards to Walmart. Their partners can also participate postpartum.</p> <p>They are also continuing to build on the perinatal quality collaborative and AIM bundle (Alliance for Innovative Medicine). That work is working to implement strategies in hospitals across the state to help prevent maternal mortality, specifically around substance use disorder.</p> <p>They are working on improving data and knowledge that they have for their Pregnancy-Associated Mortality Review (PAMR) report by increasing the number of autopsies that are paid for in the state. They are contracting with medical examiners across the state to alleviate the cost. They are supporting group prenatal care in Kansas City with Uzazi Birth Village. The doula training program will be up and running in about a month. Another update is they are set to launch a statewide Telehealth network for forensic exams for sexual assault in January of 2024.</p> <p>Additionally, Office on Women’s Health is partnering with the Maternal Child Health (MCH) and Title V office at the Department. Martha is leading efforts within the department for some new decision items. The main work is around improving maternity care, improving maternal health access and improving their workforce, optimizing postpartum care and making their data more transparent.</p> <p>There was a question on how are they supporting doulas who are already trained?</p>

	<p>They have been partnering with folks in the transformation office at DSS. They are exploring getting doula services as a provider type and making sure that there is a pathway for certification.</p> <p>Sarah met with Department Director Paula Nickelson and she would like the Council to report directly to the Office on Women’s Health (OWH). Director Nickelson will be attending meetings when she is available. She will attend once a year at the in-person meeting.</p>
<p>Department of Social Services Update</p>	<p>At MO HealthNet they have pulled together a team and Ashley and Martha have been joining them on their calls bi weekly and in between they have working teams that are meeting on the off weeks. They designed an approach to take a look at where they can have some impact. They want to ultimately have healthier moms and babies. Ashley Wilson asked the Council for some feedback on what they should be looking at in their focus groups. Jessica asked if the Council has contacts that would enjoy giving them ideas and feedback in the groups that Sue mentioned, to go ahead and send her the names. Sue suggested in the interest in helping with MO HealthNet timeline since their meetings are every two weeks, the Council could send their recommendations for possible panelists and a sentence about why to Sarah. They can compile that and get it to Jessica. Sue also asked that Sarah and Jessica can coordinate if they would like to have an ad hoc meeting with the Council to get more feedback. Sue also suggested groups of people throughout the state with lived experience who are coming together and have input on all of this and send those to Sarah as well.</p> <p>Sue asked Jessica that if the Council is putting together a priority document that makes more sense for the different departments, would it be helpful to them if they had the social services information broken out rather than embedded. Jessica indicated that there may be some benefit for other folks when they are looking at the priorities document to have a clear picture.</p>
<p>Discussion of Priorities for 2024</p>	<p>Sue mentioned that Megan did a phenomenal job looking at the priorities from the public health framework that aligns with what the Department of Health is doing. This is a good opportunity to look at how the Council does the priorities document to also help make it more meaningful. The Director would like priorities in May. Sue asked if the Council wanted to continue with the lengthy priorities document or choose some priorities that are relevant to the Department of Health. Megan gave some background history and talked about the foundational capabilities wheel that is adapted for Missouri.</p> <p>Sue asked the Council to look at the priorities specific to DHSS and if something is in the wrong bucket to let them know. Sue asked to email her if they are willing to be in a group so they can go through the document. They will then send a communication to the Council indicating they have met and the things that need to be put forward and updated so they can get something to the Director that will be meaningful.</p>
<p>Discussion of Meetings for 2024</p>	<p>Sue gave some history of the Women’s Health Council and she also talked about the previous white papers. At the June meeting, Sarah is looking into having the people who help with strategic planning at DHSS join the Council meeting. They would like to invite back some of the former Council members to also join the meeting so that they can celebrate them because they rolled off during the pandemic and they never got to say a proper “thank you”. Also, to have them lead</p>

	<p>the Council in some strategic planning so that they can develop what the council really wants to do. The other thing the Council needs to think about is leadership and if they would like to be in a leadership role and think about what that leadership looks like.</p> <p>Shavanna asked if there is a way to bridge some of the connections with the work that is being done around maternal health. To have a connection between all the different spaces in Missouri. Sue mentioned they try to get people from different parts of the state to have that voice and did a gap analysis. It was also mentioned not to limit the 15 people on the Council, but bring their friends so that they can have a much broader representation and share the work. Sarah added that the Women Health Council Meetings are always open and feel free to forward the invitation. Sarah mentioned the Director has given the Council the authority to vote on their leadership, and thought after the Council meets in person that they could vote on who they think would best be their leadership.</p> <p>The June 27th meeting will be rescheduled to a different date. Sarah will send out a Doodle poll to the Council.</p> <p>Megan encouraged the Council at the strategic planning meeting to spend a little bit of time thinking through collectively what they want their values and principles to be as those could be helpful in guiding how they want decisions to be made.</p> <p>Sarah will be meeting with some folks in about two weeks to figure out what they need from the Council as a group. She will meet with them the first week of April and then will reach out to the Council members with what they need.</p> <p>The Council will revisit the statute and revisit the charge and have some conversations during strategic planning. Sarah added that the Director would like the Council to focus on women across the lifespan and sked for the Council to bring someone in who focuses on gerontology because that is not represented on the Council right now.</p> <p>If Council members need reimbursement, there are funds to assist with hotels, meals, and travel. Sarah will also send out an email regarding this.</p>
Adjourn	The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m.
Next Meeting	TBD