

**Missouri Women’s Health Council
Meeting Minutes
August 24, 2023**

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

Topic/Presenter	Discussion
Welcome	Sarah shared the plan for the Council meetings. There will be an in-person meeting at DHSS in Jefferson City on November 29, 2023. In person attendance is encouraged. Sarah asked if there were any welcoming messages. There were none.
Department of Social Services Update	Jessica gave an update on maternal health and postpartum expansion. . Jessica asked if there were any questions. They are building a webpage along with DHSS and Department of Mental Health (DMH). Jessica gave an update on efforts around maternal health and the bi weekly meetings updates and access to care. They are looking at care management with LPHAs. They are also looking at making group prenatal care a service. Managed care plan utilization. Jessica will send the link for the managed care dashboard to Tracy and Sarah to send to the Council. She will also send the link to sign up for their hot tips and bulletins.
Department of Health and Senior Services Update	<p>Sarah gave an update on the Office on Women’s Health (OWH). Continuing to support prenatal care and doula training across the state. They were also given funds for doula services in the Springfield area as well as a statewide feasibility study. They are working with the Doula Foundation of Springfield. They are on track to start a statewide telehealth network for forensic exams in January 2024. They are working with MO HealthNet’s transformation office about doing a state plan amendment for doula services being covered as part of Medicaid. Sarah also talked about the Extended Women’s Health Program. Sarah shared that the pregnancy-associated mortality review published their most recent report and is updated on their website.</p> <p>Martha gave an update on 4.35 million dollars that was included in the state fiscal year 2024 budget. The 4.35 million dollars is for 5 domains of action. The first domain of action is to establish standardized quality care protocols for the perinatal period. The second domain of action is to establish a perinatal health access project inclusive of perinatal mental health and substance use. The third domain of action will be to provide standardized provider trainings. The fourth domain is to establish and implement a standardized postpartum plan of care. The final domain of action is around data transparency.</p> <p>They also have a women’s and maternal health taskforce. The taskforce is looking at barriers that have been identified in different areas around women and maternal</p>

	<p>health. They also have some endeavors around fetal and infant mortality and have proposed a statewide fetal infant mortality review network. They are working around messaging and making sure that their partners across the state are engaged in consistent messaging with regard to unwinding the public health emergency and ensuring continuous Medicaid eligibility. They are also working on the possibility of a statewide media messaging campaign. They have a maternal health multisector action network, and UMKC leads that effort. They have been working to provide dental clinics in existing partner settings. Uzazi Village in Kansas City has established a dental clinic that is free to the clients they serve. Another piece is messaging around the importance of oral health with regard to overall health. They also have efforts going on around the regulations that currently exist regarding birthing centers. They are looking at those regulations and what revisions might need to be made to expand that opportunity and not make it prohibitive for women to receive care in a birthing center and also make it less prohibitive for establishing a birthing center. They will be starting their five-year statewide maternal child health needs assessment. There was a discussion about birthing centers.</p>
Discuss Bylaws and Member Recruitment	<p>Sarah shared the bylaws document from 2018 and talked about bylaws. She will send the document out to the Council. They discussed needing regional representation around the state for the Council. They would also like to have the voice of the consumer represented on the Council. It was suggested that the Council meet more frequently. It was suggested to add additional meetings to talk about maternal health and have shorter meetings if there are more meetings. There was a discussion on term limits and also the percentage of meeting attendance. WHC appointments will be scheduled in advance.</p> <p>Mandy Hagseth gave an update for the Missouri Family Health Council (MFHC).</p>
Closing and Next Steps	<p>Consider who they want to join them on the Council. Gather nominations and share all of them with Department Director.</p>
Adjourn	<p>The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 a.m.</p>
Next Meeting	<p>October 27, 2023 via Webex</p>