

**Missouri Women’s Health Council
Webex
Meeting Minutes
June 23, 2021**

Members Present	Colleen Coble, Karen Edison, Sue Kendig, Bridget McCandless, Wendy Doyle, Sandra Jackson,
Members Absent	Eboni January, Paula Baker, Karlyle Christian Ritter, Sherry Maxwell, Katherine Mathews, Katie Towns, Mary McLennan, Melissa Terry, Denise Wilfley, Denise Willers
Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS) Staff	Acting Director Knodell, Martha Smith, Sarah Ehrhard Reid, Jenay Divin
Department of Social Services Staff (DSS)	
Guests	Ally Siegler, Mandy Hagseth, Michelle Trupiano

Topic/Presenter	Discussion
Welcome	Sue Kendig welcomed Acting Director Knodell and asked for introductions of Council members and guests. Sue shared that the Council tries to represent all parts of the state, and they are going through a transition. The Council has been convening for about three years and some members have rolled off. They will be talking about a nomination process for bringing new members.
Department of Health and Senior Services Update	<p>Acting Director Knodell indicated he became the acting director here at the Department on April 20, 2021. The search for a permanent director is underway. He hopes to have a permanent director for the Department by the end of the summer and he will return to the Governor’s office. They are moving ahead on a number of strategic projects and initiatives. In the past year COVID has been the main focus of the Department. They have seen case rates drop dramatically across the state and mitigation measures being eased across the state as the rate of vaccination has increased. They are continuing to see surges in various regions of the state with the new Delta variant moving among Missourians that are not vaccinated. The vaccine is available, convenient, and free. Hesitancy is the biggest concern. Missouri has administered over 4.8 million vaccines, 2.6 million individual Missourians having initiated vaccination, 2.3 million have completed their vaccine regiment, 43.7 percent initiated total state population. Fifty-one percent of Missourians over the age of 12 that are eligible under the EUA have been vaccinated. Fifty-four percent of Missourians over the age of 18 have been vaccinated as well as eighty percent of Missourians over the age of 65. Vaccination will continue to be a key point of focus at the Department.</p> <p>At the end of the legislative session a prescription drug monitoring program was passed and it will be effective later this year. The general assembly is entering a special session to extend the Federal Reimbursement Allowance (FRA). A circuit court ruling on Medicaid Expansion is expected by the end of the week.</p> <p>The new grant funding opportunities available coming to the state from the federal government exceeds over \$800 million that will be available to the Department and</p>

	<p>our public health partners in the state. The funding opportunities span over a three to four year period. Acting Director Knodell asked for the Council’s input on women’s health as well as workforce development. Karen Edison would like to see the funding strengthening the local public health departments. Acting Director Knodell shared information on the Missouri’s Foundational Public Health Services Model. Bridget McCandles asked about the colleges and universities that will not be allowed to require vaccinations as a condition of return to campus and also in regards to special populations, including incarcerated or justice involved individuals and where are we with their vaccinations. Acting Director Knodell shared that the state did extend the vaccination opportunity to individuals in congregate care as well as correctional facilities. Missouri has some of the lowest prevalence of COVID outbreaks in the state correctional facilities.</p> <p>Acting Director Knodell welcomed the Council to develop a list of priorities that they would like to see included as it relates to women’s health in the initiatives. Question was asked about the policy priority that was done in January and then submitted to the Department for consideration as the Council had not heard back on the document. Acting Director Knodell indicated that he had signed off on that document a few weeks prior and apologized that it was not communicated to the Council. He indicated the Council could share the document. Sarah will resend the priorities document out to the Council with a note that it has been approved. Karen Edison talked about telehealth and distance learning to build up the workforce in the small communities.</p> <p>Acting Director Knodell indicated that he asked the Senate to put the funding back in for a deputy director at the Department and they agreed to do so. The position is funded as of July 1st of this coming year. He also mentioned the Department has hired Melanie Highland as the Division of Senior and Disability Services Director. Sue mentioned that when Mr. Knodell is back in his original role that the Council would like to have him join them from time to time as the liaison to the Governor’s office.</p>
<p>Discussion of nominations and terms</p>	<p>Sarah explained to the Council the Women’s Health Council Nomination document is to bring forward folks that the Council would like to have be a part of the council as well as what roles they might serve, or what experience they might have. Council members will fill out a form with some general information. Council members will send the nomination form to the Women’s Health Initiative unit and they will be sent up through the Department for review by the DHSS Director. Colleen moved to approve the nomination form and Bridget second.</p>
<p>Other Items</p>	<p>Sue asked the Council if they need to have an ad hoc group to think through the priorities again. She asked the Council to look over the priorities document to see if there are any addendums they want to make to the priorities document. Sue will check back in a week to see if anyone has any thoughts.</p> <p>Sarah shared with the Council the Missouri State Health Improvement Plan that was emailed to the Council a couple weeks ago. This is the document that will be helping guide the Department with their priorities. Bridget asked if Sarah could send that to the Council again.</p> <p>There was a discussion of the FRA. Questions followed.</p>

	Sarah announced that the next Women’s Health Council meeting is scheduled for September 15, 2021. An email will be sent out closer to the next meeting to vote for a virtual or person or in person meeting.
Adjourn	The meeting was adjourned at noon.
Next Meeting	September 15, 2021