

**Cervical Cancer Task Force  
Regular Meeting (virtual)**

**October 21, 2021  
Minutes**

**Attending Task Force Members:**

Rhonda Brown, ADH; Michelle Murtha, AFMC; Dr. Mike Riddell, AMS; Dr. Sam Greenfield, AMDPA; Beatriz Mondragon, AMHC; Pam Brown, AHA, Kim Wilmot, DHS

**Absent Task Force Members:**

Krista Kirksey, ACS; Amanda Deel, Arkansas Academy of Family Physicians; Laura Fletcher, Community at Large; Dr. Joseph Su, UAMS COPH; (Vacant), Blue Cross/Blue Shield.

**Arkansas Cancer Coalition (ACC):**

Kirsty DeHan

**Other Meeting Attendees:**

Misty Smith, ADH; Amanda Hunter, ADH; Dr. Laura Huffman, UAMS; Dr. Heather Williams, UAMS

**I. Old Business – Approval of Minutes**

- a. Michelle Murtha motioned to approve the minutes of July 22, 2021. Dr. Riddell seconded the motion. A motion to approve the minutes were voted unanimously in favor.

**II. BreastCare Presentation: An Update on Arkansas Breast and Cervical Cancer Control Efforts – Amanda Hunter**

- a. BreastCare provides Arkansas Cancer Plan Implementation funding to specific organizations who provide education and screening opportunities. Those organizations are: the Arkansas Cancer Coalition, Arkansas Prostate Cancer Foundation, UAMS Health Initiatives and Disparities Screening Research Program, and the UAMS Mobile Mammography Program.
- b. BreastCare is a federally funded program under the Chronic Disease Prevention and Control Branch at ADH
- c. BreastCare provides no cost screening and follow-up for women in Arkansas who are either uninsured or underinsured, and at or below 250% of the Federal Poverty Level. Women must be 40-64 years old for breast cancer services, and 21-64 years old for cervical cancer services.
- d. BreastCare provides the following services: clinical breast exam, mammogram, pap test, follow up services for abnormal results. If a patient is diagnosed with cancer, they will be referred to a treatment program and enrolled in Medicaid.
- e. BreastCare has a network of around 400 providers which include ADH local health units (1 in each county), FQHCs, hospitals, private providers, and mobile mammography providers.

- f. January 2021 enrollment data shows that cervical screening providers are covered in every county by ADH local health units and the majority of counties also have a FQHC
- g. January 2021 enrollment data shows there are a minimum of three colposcopy providers in each region of the state with providers still pending enrollment
- h. You can search for BreastCare providers by city or county at [ark.org/adh/breastcare\\_providers/index.php/search/searchProviders](http://ark.org/adh/breastcare_providers/index.php/search/searchProviders)
- i. You can check if a woman is eligible for the BreastCare program by answering 10 questions at [healthy.arkansas.gov/programs-services/topics/breastcare-program](http://healthy.arkansas.gov/programs-services/topics/breastcare-program).
- j. BreastCare provides free educational posters for clinics, and pamphlets, and trifolds for patients in English and Spanish upon request.
- k. There are regional care coordinators in each five regions of the state to help navigate women to services
- l. BreastCare contracts with UAMS and St Bernards Mobile Mammography Unit to provide direct screening statewide. There are 29 counties without mammography facilities.
- m. BreastCare partners with St Francis Community Clinic in NWA (12 clinics total) for health system changes, such as client reminders, after-hour clinical breast exam clinics and other evidence-based interventions.
- n. Is there space to provide cervical cancer screenings in MMUs? If we were to increase access to colposcopy services, who would staff it? There are logistics of reading pathology that would need to be solved and explored further.
- o. Does the BreastCare program cover LEEP? Yes, LEEP is covered through treatment assistance.

### III. Member Updates

- a. How can we increase vaccination rates? Create a compelling resource-based argument that it is more cost effective to prevent than treat cancer. Work with the HPV Group (Arkansas Immunization Action Coalition). Dr Su spoke with Arkansas Center for Health Improvement (ACHI) for data and resources to increase vaccinations. (See previous meeting notes for more information).
- b. Dr. Jennifer Young Pierce, GYN Oncologist, is trying to increase vaccine uptake. She has studied vaccine hesitancy in other states.
- c. At the Immunize AR HPV Summit in May they had the following presentations: *The State of HPV Vaccination in Arkansas, HPV-related Oropharyngeal Cancer, HPV Vaccination is Cancer Prevention: Strategies to Increase Uptake, HPV & Gynecologic Cancer, Addressing Vaccine Hesitancy.*
  - i. Presentations and the recording of the HPV Summit are available at <https://www.immunizear.org/2021-hpv-summit>
- d. Dr. Ben Teeter, a pharmacist, has been invited to present at the next meeting. Pharmacists have vaccinated so many people for COVID, maybe we make them a resource for the HPV vaccine.
- e. Dr. Su has also been asked to speak about his discussion with ACHI regarding increasing vaccinations
- f. The 2021 Immunization Summit is Friday, November 5.

Meeting adjourned at 5:25pm.

**The next meeting is January 20, 2022 at 4:30 p.m. via Zoom.**