

Arkansas Cervical Cancer Task Force Regular Meeting (virtual)

**January 16, 2025
Approved Minutes**

Attending Task Force Members:

Dr. Sam Greenfield, AMDPA; Rhelinda McFadden, AFMC; Rhonda Brown, ADH – Cancer Prevention & Control Program; Pam Brown, AHA; Krista Kirksey Thomas, ACS; Kenya Eddings, AFMC.

Absent Task Force Members:

Dr. Mike Riddell, MD, AMS; Dr. Amanda Deel, AAFP; Kim Wilmot, DHS Division of Medical Services.; **Vacant**, *Community at Large*; **Vacant**, *Medical Insurance Industry*; **Vacant**, *UAMS College of Public Health*.

Other Meeting Attendees:

Kristy Hales, ACC; Misty Smith, ADH; Portia Knowlton, St. Jude's HPV Cancer Prevention Program; Gina Gulley, DHS; Dr. Heather Williams, UAMS; Heather Mercer, ImmunizeAR.

Welcome and Introductions

Dr. Sam Greenfield called to order the AR Cervical Cancer Task Force quarterly meeting at 4:33pm. Dr. Greenfield recognized that there wasn't a quorum to approve the April, July, and October meetings' minutes. He asked those on the call to review provided PDFs of those meeting minutes and submit any corrections or changes.

Vacant Member Positions

Dr. Greenfield confirmed that the recently retired Dr. Carl Riddell will continue serving on the Task Force representing Arkansas Medical Society. His term doesn't expire until 08/8/25.

There were no responses or suggestions for the vacant positions for UAMS COPH or Survivor member positions.

Member Updates

Heather Mercer, ImmunizeAR, shared that she'd been contacted by Channel 7 regarding Cervical Cancer Awareness Month. She put them in contact with cancer survivor, Brittany Rose, which resulted in positive media coverage. ImmunizeAR will promote the benefits of cervical cancer screening at upcoming HPV Summit scheduled for May 23rd at the Wyndham Hotel.

SB 6 – Arkansas legislature update on Vaccine Harm Bill. Heather advised keeping watch on this. The proposed legislation establishes a new criminal offense known as "vaccine harm," which applies to executive officers of pharmaceutical companies who knowingly conceal information about the dangerous effects of vaccines they market.

Rhelinda McFadden, AFMC, noted Medicaid PCMH program being a fluid program, they have pulled back on making HPV vaccination a measure for quality for the 2025 PCMH performance period, instead

it will remain informational for another year. Noting that cervical and breast will remain active measures. McFadden reiterated they continue to push that HPV screenings be added to current recommendations.

They are looking for a speaker to discuss breast and cervical cancer at a multi-payer work group on value-based programs.

Krista Kirksey-Thomas, ACS, shared that the release of 2025 Cancer Facts and Figures is out now. (see additional page of links from chat)

Portia Knowlton, St. Jude HPV Cancer Prevention Program, invited everyone to The HPV Vaccination Roundtable of the Southeast to be held virtually on January 21st thru 23rd from 10am-12pm. The focus will be on three action items which are communication, elimination and start at age nine.

Gina Gulley, ADH, nothing to report.

Kenya Eddings, AMHC, putting out social media messages on all channels for this month relating to cervical cancer education and awareness. Additionally, we are co-hosting with our partners Arkansas Medical, Dental, and Pharmaceutical Association (AMDPA), the highly popular *Ask the Doctor* series. It takes place on the 3rd Tuesday of each month from 7am to 9am. This upcoming Tuesday will feature our own Dr. Sam Greenfield discussing cervical cancer symptoms, treatment, HPV, and all things in between

Misty Smith, ADH, nothing to report.

Dr. Greenfield, AMDPA, asked about the Alabama Wipe-Out program regarding the implementation of a similar program in Arkansas.

Dr. Heather Williams, UAMS, brought up possible controversies around the recent cervical cancer screening recommendations from United States Prevention Services Task Force (USPSTF.) Dr. Williams, as a gynecologic oncologist, believes there should be more information regarding the 65-year-old and up group identifying those sexually active vs. not. She's personally seen uptick in women of that age being diagnosed with cervical cancer because of widowhood and becoming sexually active again.

Other Business Agenda Items for April:

Approve April, July, October 2024 meeting minutes and January 2025 minutes.
Portia Knowlton will report on the Alabama Wipe Out Program for April 17th meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 5:20pm.

The next meeting is April 17, 2025, at 4:30 p.m. via Zoom.

Cervical Cancer Task Force upcoming meeting dates for 2025 (3rd Thursday in Apr/July/Oct)

- April 17, 2025
- July 17, 2025
- October 16, 2025 (Cervical Cancer Update on agenda)