

**Arkansas Cervical Cancer Task Force
Regular Meeting (virtual)
October 16, 2025
Approved Minutes**

Attending Task Force Members:

Dr. Sam Greenfield, AMDPA; Rhonda Brown, ADH – Cancer Prevention & Control Program; Rhelinda McFadden, AFMC; Kim Wilmot, DHS Division of Medical Services, Brittany Rose, Community-at-Large 16

Absent Task Force Members:

Krista Kirksey Thomas, ACS; Kenya Eddings, AMHC; Cindy Crump; AHA; Dr. Amanda Deel, NYIT

Other Attendees

Gina Gully, ADH – Cancer Prevention & Control Program; Misty Smith, ADH – Cancer Prevention & Control Program; Miriam Karanja, Arkansas Cancer Coalition.

Vacant Slots:

Arkansas Medical Society, Medical Insurance Industry and Fay W. Boozman College of Public Health, UAMS.

Guest Presenter

Portia Knowlton, MHRM, Program Coordinator, HPV Cancer Prevention Program, St. Jude.

Welcome and Introductions

Dr. Sam Greenfield called to order the Arkansas Cervical Cancer Task Force (CCTF) quarterly meeting at 4:33pm. Dr. Greenfield recognized that there was a quorum to approve the July 2025 meetings' minutes. CCTF reviewed the minutes and then voted to approve them.

Vacant Member Positions

- The task force is actively seeking to fill vacant positions including representatives from the insurance industry, medical industry, and UAMS' College of Public Health.

Member Discussions

- **Dr. Greenfield:** This discussion centered on the ongoing initiatives of the Task Force focused on cervical cancer and related health issues. William Greenfield noted the absence of Daniela Ramirez-Aguilar due to pending data, suggesting her presentation be postponed to the next meeting. He welcomed Brittany Rose as a new member and mentioned the potential appointment of Dr. Heather Williams to fill a vacant position. The group confirmed contact information for Amanda Barber and agreed on the need for further communication regarding upcoming tasks.
- **Brittany Rose** joined the Task Force, sharing her experience as a dental hygienist and cancer survivor, and offered her assistance in discussions related to oral health

Guest Presentation: Elimination Plan for Cervical Cancer

- Portia Knowlton (St. Jude) presented on developing a state elimination plan for cervical cancer, referencing successful models in Alabama ("Operation Wipeout") and recent efforts in Mississippi.
- Mississippi's approach involved a seven-month planning process with bi-weekly meetings, culminating in a summit with 81 participants. Key focus areas: improving HPV vaccination rates, enhancing cervical cancer screening, and strengthening treatment for HPV-related cancers.
- The group discussed the possibility of hosting a similar summit in Arkansas, potentially in January (Cervical Cancer Awareness Month) or March, with St. Jude offering logistical support (venue, meals).
- Two models were considered: partnering directly with Operation Wipeout (with some funding restrictions) or developing a unique Arkansas-branded plan with support from St. Jude's Southeast Elimination Plan toolkit.
- There was consensus on the need to broaden the focus to include all HPV-associated cancers, not just cervical cancer, to maximize impact and appeal.

Planning and Next Steps

- The group identified the need for a comprehensive list of stakeholders to involve in planning, including UAMS oncology, private oncology groups, CARTI, and representatives from all Arkansas medical schools.
- Action items included:
 - Dr. Greenfield will consult with Dr. Dillaha and Heather Mercer before formal outreach.
 - Misty Smith will circulate an email requesting suggestions for additional stakeholders.
 - Scheduling a follow-up meeting in about two weeks to advance planning, contingent on departmental approvals.
- The importance of differentiating this elimination plan from existing HPV summits (which are educational rather than action-oriented) was emphasized.
- Portia Knowlton and Brittany Rose both offered to leverage their networks and expertise, particularly in oral health and community engagement.

Agenda Items for January 2026:

- Approve October 2025 minutes.
- Follow up on the progress of organizing a strategy meeting and an agenda for planning the Arkansas Wipe Out Program.
- An update on the latest cervical cancer data will be provided.
- Invite Dr. Monique Spellman to discuss how we can work together.

The meeting adjourned at 5:32pm. The next meeting will be on January 15, 2026 at 4:30pm via Zoom.