

Arkansas Cervical Cancer Task Force
Regular Meeting (virtual)
April 17, 2025
Minutes

Attending Task Force Members:

Dr. Sam Greenfield, AMDPA; Rhonda Brown, ADH – Cancer Prevention & Control Program; Pam Brown, AHA; Kenya Eddings, AFMC.

Absent Task Force Members:

Krista Kirksey Thomas, ACS; Rhelinda McFadden, AFMC; Dr. Mike Riddell, MD, AMS; Dr. Amanda Deel, AAFP; Kim Wilmot, DHS Division of Medical Services.

Other Meeting Attendees:

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

Welcome and Introductions

Dr. Sam Greenfield called to order the Arkansas Cervical Cancer Task Force quarterly meeting at 4:43pm. Dr. Greenfield recognized that there wasn't a quorum to approve the April, July, October 2024 and January 2025 meetings' minutes. He asked those on the call to review provided PDFs of those meeting minutes and submit any corrections or changes.

Pam Brown Retirement

Pam Brown announced her retirement at the end of July and proposes Cindy Crump as her replacement for the role. Rhonda Brown said Misty Smith will reach out to get information about Cindy Crump.

Dr. Heather Williams

Heather mentioned her upcoming speaking engagement at the HPV Summit, May23rd at the Wyndham Riverfront, where she plans to present a physician's perspective.

Vacant Member Positions

There were no responses or suggestions for the vacant positions. Rhonda Brown said Heather Mercer, ImmunizeAR, had submitted some names for consideration.

Member Updates

Kenya Eddings, AMHC, Kenya provided updates on the Arkansas Minority Health Commission's activities, including collaborations with UAMS Cancer Institute, hosting a state of minority health convening focused on food insecurity, and partnering with Arkansas Hunger Relief Alliance for another edition of "Learn More at the Grocery Store" education event.

Gina Gulley, ADH, nothing to report.

Dr. Greenfield, AMDPA, he reports on the expansion of colposcopy clinics across public health regions in Arkansas, highlighting recent training sessions and site visits where the ADH is

looking to add four additional colposcopy clinics. Dr. Greenfield recognizing that this is a bit of a legacy for fellow Task Force member and recently retired Dr. Carl Riddell (UAMS). Additionally, he mentioned, in appreciation, the distance driven for site visits was similar to those the patients have had to travel for their colposcopy services. He added he recently participated in a St. Jude webinar, highlighting its value in enhancing outreach and professional learning. A key takeaway was the importance of distinguishing between "elimination" and "eradication" in vaccine counseling, which he has begun incorporating into practice.

Agenda Presentation - Portia Knowlton, St. Jude HPV Cancer Prevention Program

Portia proposed cervical cancer elimination strategies, highlighting the World Health Organization's global strategy introduced in November 2020. Portia explains the 90-70-90 target for HPV vaccination, cervical cancer screening, and treatment. She also mentions Alabama's Operation Wipe Out program, noting that Alabama is the only state with a statewide cervical cancer elimination plan focusing on promoting HPV vaccination, cervical screenings, and follow-up adherence for abnormal results. Portia to provide a more fleshed out plan for the cervical cancer elimination initiative for the July 17th meeting. William and Portia to schedule a follow-up conversation to discuss next steps for the initiative. Portia to share information about Alabama's Operation Wipe Out program and the southeastern elimination plan with the group. Portia will provide details on Louisiana's planning process after their May 1st meeting.

Gina Gulley suggested that the group plan to hold a meeting in July to further develop their strategy, with a deeper planning session in September, which is gynecological awareness month and a potential event in January.

Dr. Greenfield discussed evolving efforts to improve vaccinations and raise awareness, particularly for HPV. The importance of including dentists is highlighted due to the connection between HPV and head and neck cancers. The group discusses potential participants for an upcoming summit on women's health, including the Winthrop P. Rockefeller Cancer Institute's Community Outreach Committee, pharmacists, and dentists. They agree that an in-person meeting would be more effective for planning and breakout sessions, despite potential scheduling challenges

Other Business Agenda Items for July:

- Approve April, July, October 2024 meeting minutes and January and April 2025 minutes.

Portia Knowlton will report on progress of organizing a strategy meeting and an agenda for planning the Arkansas Wipe Out Program.

The meeting adjourned at 5:20pm. The next meeting is July 17, 2025, at 4:30pm via Zoom.

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

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