

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

**July 18, 2024
Minutes**

Attending Task Force Members:

Kenya Eddings, AMHC; Rhelinda McFadden, AFMC; Rhonda Brown, ADH; Kim Wilmot, DHS

Absent Task Force Members:

Laura Fletcher, Community at Large; Dr. Amanda Deel, Arkansas Academy of Family Physicians; Pamela Brown, AHA; Dr. Sam Greenfield, AMDPA; Krista Kirksey Thomas, ACS; Dr. Mike Riddell, AMS

Other Meeting Attendees:

Nicole Blanks, Arkansas Cancer Coalition; Heather Mercer, Immunize AR; Portia Knowlton, St. Jude's, Misty Smith, ADH

I. Welcome and Introductions

Due to the absence of Dr. Sam Greenfield, Rhonda Brown facilitated the meeting. There wasn't a quorum to approve the April meeting minutes.

II. Member Updates

- a. Rhonda Brown shared that she went to the State Health Improvement Plan (SHIP) meeting and that with a couple of the strategies pertaining to increasing HPV vaccinations. The task force is well represented within that work group with Heather Mercer in attendance. Heather said there has been some momentum they built on with the ideas from that meeting.
- b. Rhelinda McFadden with Arkansas Medicaid shared that during the Strategic Advisory group meeting, they shared that the HPV vaccination will be a measure for quality for the 2025 PCMH performance period, which means facilities that accept Medicaid will be looking at ways and strategies to increase their HPV vaccination rates. Age was not mentioned in the details. McFadden reiterated that it should match the evidence-based practice guidelines for the vaccination periods. McFadden also stated there will probably be a low target to begin with due to a lot of pushbacks and that it's a great opportunity to begin to educate and reroute thought processes. The first measure starts January first and mainly impacts pediatrics. This measure is called Patient Center Medical Home: <https://humanservices.arkansas.gov/divisions-shared-services/medical-services/helpful-information-for-providers/patient-centered-medical-home/>
- c. Kenya Eddings briefed on back-to-school events, including the third annual Arkansas Minority Health Commission family fun fest in partnership with the City of Little Rock and Arkansas Children's Hospital to offer the childhood COVID vaccinations as well as other immunizations that are needed for school. The event is set for August 10th. For Immunization Awareness Month, the Arkansas Minority Health Commission partnered with AMDPA, Arkansas Medical Dental Pharmaceutical Association, and met with Doctor Battle to focus on all types of immunizations for their "Ask the Doctor" program in August on the 3rd Tuesday of every month

on power 92.3, which is the largest urban radio station in the state. AMHC will also be doing one on 99.3 the Beat in southeast Arkansas, which covers Jefferson County including Pine Bluff. In addition, we have “Ask the Doctor” in Espanyol with LA zeta, 106.3 Hot Spanish hits. Dr. Eddie Ochoa is the featured physician for that station, and he will be covering all immunizations for the August program.

- d. Portia Knowlton shared that Dr. White from the Alabama Operation Wipeout Cervical Cancer Plan was unable to attend the meeting. Knowlton shared that the Alabama Operation Wipeout Cervical Cancer Plan’s focus is to eliminate cervical cancer as a public health threat by vaccinating against HPV and expanding access to cervical cancer screening and follow-ups. Rhonda stated that we will have to wait for a quorum to discuss recommendations and in the meantime the members can review Alabama’s Cervical Cancer Plan.
- e. Heather Mercer shared that Immunize Arkansas recorded a webinar that is on demand for dental providers to watch and learn about the connection between Oropharyngeal cancers and HPV to help recommend the vaccine to their patients. Dr. Dwight Duckworth, a Dentist in Springdale and the Chair of the Dental Board, was the webinar's voice.

III. Other Business

IV. Agenda Items for October

- a. Review and compare Alabama strategy to Arkansas’ needs to help with recommendations: <https://operationwipeout.org/about/alabamas-cervical-cancer-elimination-plan/>
- b. Approve April and July meeting minutes

The meeting adjourned at 5:11pm.

The next meeting is October 17, 2024, at 4:30 p.m. via Zoom.