

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

**April 18, 2024
Minutes**

Attending Task Force Members:

Dr. Sam Greenfield, AMDPA; Kenya Eddings, AMHC; Rhelinda McFadden, AFMC; Rhonda Brown, ADH; Krista Kirksey Thomas, ACS; Dr. Mike Riddell, AMS; Kim Wilmot, DHS

Absent Task Force Members:

Laura Fletcher, Community at Large; Dr. Amanda Deel, Arkansas Academy of Family Physicians; Pamela Brown, AHA

Other Meeting Attendees:

Nicole Blanks, Arkansas Cancer Coalition; Heather Mercer, ImmunizeAR; Portia Knowlton, St. Jude's, Misty Smith, ADH, Gina Gulley, ADH.

I. Welcome and Introductions

CCTF Chair, Sam Greenfield, MD

II. Old Business

a. Approval of Minutes

Rhonda Brown moved to approve the October 19, 2023, and January 18, 2024, Minutes. Dr. Riddell second that motion, Krista Kirksey-Thomas, and Kenya Eddings agreed all in favor, and Dr. Greenfield approved the motion.

III. Member Updates

- a. Rhonda Brown shared that the Arkansas Cancer Coalition Arkansas Cancer Summit is to be held May 8th-9th in downtown Little Rock with the keynote speaker Dr. Lisa Richardson, the CDC Comprehensive Cancer Director.
- b. Kenya Eddings shared that the Arkansas Minority Health Commission is hosting its 8th Biennial Minority Health Summit April 23rd from 9am-4pm at the Venue at Westwind in North Little Rock, with Dr. Katherine Hall as the keynote speaker. Dr. Greenfield was also set to present.
- c. Misty Smith stated that there are 3 vacant CCTF task force member slots, including DHS, Community At Large, and Dr. Greenfield's position.
- d. Kim Wilmot stated that she began attending the governors' meetings regarding maternal health.

- e. Krista Kirksey-Thomas shared that the American Cancer Society is working on their summer HPV back-to-school toolkits that will have all the social media messaging flyers. The flyers can be used for clinic social media channels. The flyers can go in waiting rooms and to anyone that would promote kids getting vaccines as they go back to school. Dr. Riddell stated that there are several doctors that usually volunteer their services for athletic physicals and maybe the message could be provided as a reminder to provide education, and maybe recommend the HPV vaccine at the appropriate age level.
- f. Portia Knowlton shared that she has been talking to Heather Mercer about a great idea for community partners out of Alabama, inviting them to this task force group for operation wipe out cervical cancer, and maybe talking to us about their structure, their plan, and how we could possibly implement it. A motion was passed for the invitation.
- g. Dr. Riddell asked if there anything be done about the G9 at age 9. Rhelinda McFadden shared that as part of her work under DMS Medicaid, HPV is an informational measure, and they are focusing on that during their next learning session. It will impact hundreds of providers across the state for pediatric and primary care vaccines for Medicaid beneficiaries. She has reached out to Portia and Heather to see about getting involved, to kind of rally this for the primary care and pediatric providers under the Arkansas Medicaid, PCMH Program. Heather Mercer shared that the issue that she is hearing is that from the provider side when providers go into Webex to look to see when their patients are due for their HPV vaccine, it's still triggering at age 11-12, which is a technical issue that needs to be fixed.

IV. Other Business

- a. Dr. Riddell stated that ADH has expanded the teleposcopy program to 2 sites in the city of Hope in Hempstead County and in West Memphis which is Crittenden County. They have completed hundreds of cases under Dr. Greenfield. The statistics were around 10% and were referred in and had moderate cervical disclosure or higher. Most of them required a lead procedure and 4-5 cases that were invasive cervical cancer. ADH is looking to expand to more sites under the current budget.
- b. Dr. Greenfield shared the efforts to address cervix cancer in the project that he had been working on with Dr. Nakagawa trying to develop a therapeutic peptide-based vaccine to treat cervix dysplasia. They got through phase 2 of the trial. He stated that one had a combination of 2 things, essentially the protein particles of HPV 16, and then they had one combined with the Canada antigen. The patients were randomized in this phase to trial, to receive 4 injections intradermally over a 3-week period. The Canada antigen injection alone elicited an immune response and had more

regression than what they saw with the HPV combined with the Canada antigen.

- c. Rhonda Brown shared that she would work with the epidemiologists in the Arkansas Central Cancer Registry to provide a cervical cancer data update to the task force in October 2024.

V. Agenda Items for July

- a. Approval of April meeting minutes
- b. Vacant Task Force Member Positions

The meeting adjourned at 5:15pm.

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