

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

**July 20, 2023  
Minutes**

**Attending Task Force Members:**

Pamela Brown, AHA; Rhonda Brown, ADH; Kim Wilmot, DHS; Krista Kirksey Thomas, ACS; Kenya Eddings, AMHC; ADH; Dr. Amanda Deel, Arkansas Academy of Family Physicians; Dr. Sam Greenfield, AMDPA; Rhelinda McFadden, AFMC

**Absent Task Force Members:**

Laura Fletcher, Community at Large; Dr. Mike Riddell, AMS, Kim Wilmot; DHS

**Other Meeting Attendees:**

Dr. Heather Williams, UAMS; Misty Smith, ADH; Nicole Blanks, Arkansas Cancer Coalition; Gina Gulley, ADH; Heather Mercer, ImmunizeAR

**I. Old Business**

- a. Approval of Minutes
  - 1. A motion was passed for approval of the January and April meeting minutes with corrections.

**II. Task Force Vacancies**

- a. There are currently 2 vacancies for the Cervical Cancer Task Force
  - 1. The new members include Rhelinda McFadden, B.S.N., R.N., CPHIMS, PCMH-CCE and Kenya Eddings, MPH.
  - 2. There has been a verbal confirmation from Dr. Creshelle Nash, to represent the Medical Insurance Industry.

**III. Member Updates**

- a) Krista Kirksey Thomas shared a back-to-school social media kit for HPV. It contains different graphics and its co-brandable with approval of Krista.
- b) Heather Mercer stated that ImmunizeAR will apply for a Delta Dental Foundation grant that is HPV related to educate dentist to talk to their patients about oropharyngeal cancers. She also stated that the Immunization Summit is August 4th.
- c) August is Immunization Awareness Month. Heather shared a link to a toolkit for information that can be customized, including HPV social media posts.
- d) Kenya Eddings shared that the Arkansas Minority Health Commission is partnering with the City of Little Rock to host their annual back-to-school family fun fest on Saturday, August 12th from 10am-2pm at War Memorial Park. Their goal last year was to get kids immunized. Their

turnout was 400-500 people. She also stated that they are providing spaces with tables, chairs, and tents to provide immunizations, education, and awareness.

#### **IV. Other Business**

- a. Dr. William Greenfield stated that a recommendation should be made.
  1. Heather Mercer touched on how Oropharyngeal cancer has surpassed cervical cancer and the number of cancers caused by HPV.
  2. Dr. Greenfield displayed the bill for the Cervical Cancer Task Force and reiterated that for an act to be entitled, an act to create a cervical cancer task force to coordinate statewide efforts to combat the debilitating effects of cervical cancer on female Arkansans and for other purposes.
  3. Pamela Brown discussed the lack of HPV vaccinations being on parents' radar for their teenagers. Dr. Greenfield stated that according to the ImmunizeAR Arkansas vaccination data charts for 2023, there is room for improvement. Heather Mercer stated that ImmunizeAR is promoting to initiate the HPV vaccination at age 9 instead of ages 11-12. The recommendation from the Advisory Committee on Immunization practices is to start at age 11 or 12, but you can start vaccinations at age 9. Dr. Amanda Deel stated that the typical mindset of not getting the HPV vaccination correlates with teenagers not getting HPV because they aren't sexually active. Dr. Deel further shared her thoughts on HPV vaccinations being offered in schools and stated that it was an uptake issue. Heather Mercer stated that the difference between the Flu and HPV vaccine is that Flu vaccines are covered by 317 funds, whether a student is insured or uninsured, the vaccine is covered. There are no funds covering the HPV vaccine for anyone uninsured. 317 funds fall under a federal program.
  4. Rhonda Brown suggested a recommendation to be written up that would include offering HPV vaccinations voluntarily in schools, identify funding sources for uninsured, and recommendations from the January meeting.
  5. A draft will be circulated through a Google Doc. Dr. Greenfield lastly stated that the charge of this committee is to make recommendations, promote awareness, and find funding.

#### **V. Agenda items for July:**

- a. Discuss suggested recommendations.

**The meeting adjourned at 5:25pm.**

**The next meeting is October 19, 2023, at 4:30 p.m. via Zoom.**