

Arkansas Cervical Cancer Task Force Regular Meeting (virtual)

October 17, 2024
Minutes

Attending Task Force Members:

Dr. Sam Greenfield, AMDPA; Rhelinda McFadden, AFMC; Rhonda Brown, ADH – Cancer Prevention & Control Program

Absent Task Force Members:

Laura Fletcher, Community at Large; Dr. Amanda Deel, AR Academy of Family Physicians; Pamela Brown, AHA; Krista Kirksey Thomas, ACS; Kim Wilmot, DHS; Kenya Eddings, AFMC.

Other Meeting Attendees:

Miriam Karanja, ACC; Misty Smith, ADH; Daniella Ramirez-Aguilar, ADH AR Central Cancer Registry.

I. Welcome and Introductions

Dr. Sam Greenfield called to order the Arkansas Cervical Cancer Task Force (CCTF) quarterly meeting at 4:33pm. Dr. Sam Greenfield recognized that there was not a quorum to approve the April and July meetings' minutes. He asked those on the call to review the PDFs of those meeting minutes and submit any corrections or changes.

II. Vacant Member Positions

Dr. Greenfield will establish if the recently retired Dr. Riddell would like to continue serving on the CCTF representing the Arkansas Medical Society. His term does not expire until 08/8/25. Either way, we need to update his contact information for phone, mail, and email.

Dr. Greenfield will contact folks in the medical insurance industry and UAMS' College of Public Health to fill vacant member positions.

Miriam Karanja will contact Heather Mercer for a cancer survivor to fill Community at Large vacant member position.

III. Member Updates

Rhonda Brown, ADH, shared that it is Breast Cancer Awareness month. Her group will be promoting the benefits of cervical cancer screening alongside their Breast Cancer Awareness events. She and her staff will be at the Arkansas State Fair from October 11-20, 2024.

Rhelinda McFadden with AFMC stated that being a fluid program they have pulled back on making HPV vaccination a measure for quality for the 2025 PCMH performance period. Instead, it will remain informational for another year. McFadden reiterated that

they would continue to push for HPV screenings to be added to the current recommendations that include chlamydia, breast cancer and colorectal cancer.

Dr. Greenfield commented “All required vaccines within school systems are ACIP-recommended vaccines, but not all ACIP recommended vaccines are required.”

McFadden said lots of politics are involved but Dr. Golden is looking at this being a measure of need. HPV vaccinations is one of the required core measures for Medicaid to be federally reported. Efforts are ongoing to move it into the spotlight as well as overcoming our biggest barrier – the associated stigma. Along with Dr. Golden, Dr. Christopher Smith, new Medicaid director, has it in his sights as well.

Daniela Ramirez-Aguilar with AR Central Cancer Registry provided yearly update on the status of cervical cancer and HPV vaccinations in Arkansas. Her report can be obtained by contacting her at Daniela.Ramirez-Aguilar@arkansas.gov

Other Business

Miriam Karanja noted for Heather Mercer at Immunize AR that they are hosting their year-end meeting and champion celebration on December 5th. They are having a hard time with nominations for their HPV Superstar Award. Any help would be appreciated.

Dr. Greenfield would like to put together a survey and distribute to members a five-action list of items that would be most impactful regarding what more the CCTF should be doing. He also recommended looking at the Dept. of Health Grand Rounds offered by Kevin Ryan of UAMS COPH titled “Jurisprudential Trends in Public Health Governmental Authority.” It offers invaluable information regarding how people listen to public health information and what or who is trusted.

IV. Agenda Items for January

- a. Approve April, July, and October meeting minutes
- b. Survey results/findings

The meeting adjourned at 5:21pm.

The next meeting is January 16, 2025, at 4:30 p.m. via Zoom.

The next meetings will be held as follows:

- April 17, 2025
- July 17, 2025
- October 16, 2025 (Cervical Cancer Update will be on the agenda)