

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

**April 21, 2022
Minutes**

Attending Task Force Members:

Rhonda Brown, ADH; Beatriz Mondragon, AMHC; Dr. Mike Riddell, AMS; Dr. Sam Greenfield, AMDPA; Pam Brown, AHA; Krista Kirksey, ACS; Shaneca Smith (proxy for Michelle Murtha), AFMC.

Absent Task Force Members:

Kim Wilmot, DHS; Amanda Deel, Arkansas Academy of Family Physicians; Laura Fletcher, Community at Large; (VACANT), Medical Insurance Industry; (VACANT), UAMS COPH.

Other Meeting Attendees:

Kirsty DeHan, Arkansas Cancer Coalition; Misty Smith, ADH; Daniela Ramirez Aguilar, ACCR; Lindsay Collins, ACCR; Julia Neely, St Jude Children's Research Hospital; Heather Mercer, Immunize Arkansas; Heather Williams, UAMS

I. Old Business

a. Approval of Minutes

Dr. Riddell motioned to approve the minutes of January 20, 2022 with one revision to be made. Rhonda Brown seconded the motion. A motion to approve the minutes with the revision were voted unanimously in favor.

b. Task Force Vacancies

- i. Medical Insurance Industry - Dr. Greenfield is reaching out to Blue Cross/Blue Shield for a representative of the Medical Insurance Industry. Dr. Riddell mentioned OB-GYN, Dr. Lamako in NWA.
- ii. UAMS COPH – Dr. Su recently vacated the task force. Dr. Greenfield will reach out to some contacts, such as Mark Williams who is the new Dean. Another contact for COPH is Wendy Nembhard.
- iii. The following members have term expirations for 2022. Terms may be renewed if the member expresses to do so.
 1. Dr. Mike Riddell's term expires 8/28/22. Dr. Riddell would like to renew his term at expiration.
 2. Rhonda Brown's term expires 10/16/22. Rhonda Brown would like to renew her term at expiration.
 3. Pam Brown's term expires 10/16/22. Pam Brown would like to renew her term at expiration.
 4. Krista Kirksey Thomas' term expires 10/16/22. Krista Kirksey Thomas would like to renew her term at expiration.
 5. Amanda Deel's term expires 10/16/22. Amanda Deel is absent for comment.

- iv. Misty Smith will work with the acting Director of ADH to have renewal letters sent out

II. Cervical Cancer In Arkansas – Daniela Ramirez Aguilar, MPH

- a. Daniela Aguilar is the new Cancer Surveillance Manager at the Arkansas Department of Health, Arkansas Central Cancer Registry.
- b. Cervical cancer is the 4th most diagnosed and 4th leading cause of cancer among females
- c. As of 2018, the USPSTF recommends
 - i. screening for females aged 21-29 every 3 years with cytology
 - ii. screening for females aged 30-65 every 3 years with cytology, or every 5 years with HPV test, or co-test cytology and HPV every 5 years.
 - iii. females under the age of 21, over the age of 65, or women who have had a hysterectomy are not recommended for screening.
- d. HPV is the most common cause of cervical cancer
- e. BRFSS data from 2018-2020 shows that: women aged 21-65 who have had a pap test in the past three years slightly decreased in the US and Arkansas at a similar rate. Arkansas was at 80.1% in 2018 and decreased to 76.9% in 2020.
- f. Arkansas has a higher age-adjusted incidence rate than the US and is also less consistent in its trend from 1997-2018. The age-adjusted incidence rate for Arkansas is 10.14 per 100,000, and the five counties with the highest age-adjusted incidence rate are: Monroe, Lafayette, Hempstead, Sharp, and Stone.
- g. From 1999-2019, Arkansas is shown to have a higher age-adjusted mortality rate than the US and the trend has more variability than the US. The age-adjusted mortality rate for Arkansas is 3.1 per 100,000, vs the US age-adjusted mortality rate of 2.1 per 100,000
- h. About 90% of cervical cancer cases are due to HPV infections
- i. As of 2017 Gardasil®9 is the only HPV vaccine available in the US
- j. ACIP recommends routine HPV vaccinations at age 11 or 12 for both male and females but can start as early as 9 years of age. Vaccinations can be given through age 26 years if not vaccinated when younger.
- k. The five counties with the lowest vaccination rate of at least 1 dose among children aged 11-14 are: Miller, Hempstead, Marion, Howard, and Fulton.
- l. The five counties with the lowest vaccination rate of at least 2 doses among children aged 11-14 are: Miller, Hempstead, Columbia, St. Francis, and Newton.
- m. According to the American Cancer Society, some research suggests that women who have used an IUD had a lower risk of cervical cancer.
- n. The American Joint Committee on Cancer (AJCC) Cancer Staging Manual has published its 9th edition online and has updated the cervical cancer staging chapter. The AJCC has a course available online to explore the important changes in the new cervix staging and discuss major differences between the 8th and 9th edition. Access this course information at <https://learning.facs.org/content/ajcc-cervix-uteri-version-9-cancer-staging-system#group-tabs-node-course-default1>.
- o. For additional information, contact Daniela Aguilar at Daniela.Ramirez-Aguilar@arkansas.gov or 501-280-4134.

Other comments:

- p. What are the total number of cervical cancer cases in Arkansas? According to <https://gis.cdc.gov/Cancer/USCS/-/AtAGlance/> there were 164 cervical cancer cases reported in 2018 in Arkansas and 12,733 cases in the US.
- q. Are there any states with high HPV vaccination rates that are now seeing decreased numbers in cervical cancer? Daniela said that Montana has a lower mortality rate than the US but would need to look into how the HPV vaccine has impacted rates. Rhode Island has an 83% HPV vaccination rate according to data at https://www.americashealthrankings.org/explore/annual/measure/Immunize_HPV/state/ALL. Rhode Island students are required to begin the HPV vaccine series before 7th grade entry. Rhode Island incorporates all [CDC routinely recommended vaccines](#) into its school immunization regulations. Source: <https://health.ri.gov/immunization/about/hpv/#:~:text=Rhode%20Island%20students%20are%20required,into%20its%20school%20immunization%20regulations>
- r. What can we do to expand tele colposcopy in the areas with higher cervical cancer rates? Beatriz said that AMHC has a mobile health unit with a privacy room that can be used to target the areas with higher rates if an OB-GYN can join AMHC on their unit.

III. Member Updates

- a. The HPV Summit is May 6, 2022. Registration closes April 29.

Meeting adjourned at 5:25pm.

The next meeting is July 21, 2022 at 4:30 p.m. via Zoom.