

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

**January 19, 2023  
Minutes**

**Attending Task Force Members:**

Dr. Mike Riddell, AMS; Dr. Sam Greenfield, AMDPA; Pam Brown, AHA; Rhonda Brown, ADH; Amanda Deel, Arkansas Academy of Family Physicians; Kim Wilmot, DHS; Kenya Eddings, AMHC

**Absent Task Force Members:**

Laura Fletcher, Community at Large; (VACANT), Medical Insurance Industry; (VACANT), UAM COPH; Michelle Murtha, AFMC; Krista Kirksey Thomas, ACS; Beatriz Mondragon, AMHC

**Other Meeting Attendees:**

Nicole Butler, Arkansas Cancer Coalition; Heather Williams, UAMS; Misty Smith, ADH; Nicole Blanks, Arkansas Cancer Coalition; Gina Gulley, ADH; Heather Mercer, Immunize Arkansas

**I. Old Business**

**a. Approval of Minutes**

Pam Brown motioned to approve the minutes of October 20, 2022. Rhonda Brown seconded the motion. A motion to approve the minutes were voted unanimously in favor.

**b. Task Force Vacancies**

- i. Ongoing vacancies that need to be filled include representatives from the medical insurance industry and the UAMS College of Public Health.
  1. The CCTF will send a recruitment letter to Dean Mark Williams to request a representative to serve on the CCTF.
- ii. ACC received an email from Michelle Murtha to let the CCTF know that she has retired from AFMC and will no longer be able to serve on the task force.
  1. The CCTF discussed sending a letter of gratitude to Michelle Murtha for her dedication to public health and the CCTF. Misty will send Dr. Greenfield the length of her service on the CCTF.
  2. John Selig is the new CEO of AFMC. A recruitment letter will be sent to John Selig to request a representative to serve on the CCTF.
- iii. Beatriz Mondragon no longer works for AMHC and will no longer serve on the task force.
  1. Kenya Eddings, AMHC Executive Director, is in attendance on behalf of AMHC and has agreed to serve on the CCTF until an official AMHC representative is named.
- iv. Misty Smith will send official letters to all potential members to fill vacancies.

**II. Member Updates**

**a. Member Reports on Cervical Cancer Awareness Month Activities**

- i. The ADH BreastCare program released a press release for Cervical Cancer Awareness Month. Ronda Brown will request that ADH place more social media posts for Cervical Cancer Awareness Month.
  - ii. Heather Mercer announced that Immunize Arkansas has done social media posts for Cervical Cancer Awareness Month related to the promotion of HPV vaccination.
  - iii. The Arkansas Hospital Association and UAMS Cancer Institute will each be posting social media posts for Cervical Cancer Awareness Month. Heather Williams will also reach out to see if the UAMS Women’s Center will post something on its social media.
  - iv. Heather Williams did an interview segment with AFMC for their AFMC TV for Cervical Cancer Awareness Month. The segment is available on the AFMC website. Heather Mercer mentioned that she was interviewed for AFMC’s blog related to cervical cancer awareness.
- b. Heather Mercer talked about Immunize Arkansas’ latest HPV Prevention Workgroup meeting which was held earlier today. During the meeting, ACS presented on a project that they did with Express Rx pharmacies. With the project, ACS provided the pharmacist with education on the HPV vaccine and resources, including draft text and letters as well as phone call scripts, for HPV vaccine reminders to patients/partners. They promoted including the HPV vaccination beginning at age 9. ACS is hoping to replicate this project with other pharmacies, especially those in rural areas. Immunize Arkansas will likely have ACS present on this during the HPV Summit in May.
- c. Julia Neely with St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital also presented during the HPV Prevention Workgroup meeting about International HPV Awareness Day on March 4, 2023. St. Jude will have multiple webinars scheduled leading up to this day and will also be doing a project at ASU Jonesboro campus training college student to become ambassadors for the HPV vaccine.
- d. Heather Mercer announces that the HPV Summit is scheduled for May 5, 2023. Registration will begin on February 1, 2023.
- e. Dr. Greenfield mentioned that he and Dr. Williams has closed out Phase II of the therapeutic HPV vaccine (PepCan) trial and are in the process of analysis. Once results are available, a report will be provided to the CCTF.

### III. Other Business

- a. **Finalize List of Recommendations for the Breast Cancer Advisory Board**
  - i. The CCTF has not completed this list. Dr. Greenfield took time to discuss as a group what recommendations the CCTF would like to suggest.
    - 1. Heather Mercer talked about the recommended strategies that the Arkansas Department of Health included in their SHIP Plan for increasing HPV vaccination rates of 13- to 17-year-old children. The strategies listed in the plan, which involved organizations will implement over the next three years, include: (1) Engage providers with training on motivational interviewing and other strategies for increasing rates; (2) Deliver HPV vaccination education to dental providers; (3)

Increase automated reminders to patients for vaccines; and (4) Start vaccinating kids at age nine.

2. Vaccination completion rates for HPV are less than 50%, but completion rates for other school required vaccinations are close to 90%.
3. The CCTF agrees that making the vaccine a required would not be well accepted in Arkansas. They also agreed that strategies related to increasing awareness and availability, and decreasing barriers are the best recommendations. This could include:
  - a. Offering vaccinations via school-based clinics similar to other countries was suggested.
  - b. Increasing efforts with pharmacies, including recruiting pharmacies to become VFC providers.
  - c. Ensuring vaccine is offered to patients in multiple healthcare provider settings, with prompts and tracking via decision support in EMR.
  - d. Including clinic follow up reminders via EMR text systems to patients or parents to complete the series.
  - e. For patient side, increasing awareness and education on the importance of the vaccine.
    - i. ADH has a list and interactive map of VFC providers, it is linked on the Immunize Arkansas website that can be referenced.
4. Dr. Greenfield will draft the recommendations based on this discussion for the next meeting.

**b. Agenda items for April:**

- i. The Arkansas Central Cancer Registry plans to do an update on cervical cancer data for the April task force meeting.
- ii. Finalize list of recommendations for the Breast Cancer Advisory Board

Meeting adjourned at 5:27 pm.

**The next meeting is April 20, 2023 at 4:30 p.m. via Zoom.**