

**Missouri Women’s Health Council**  
**Webex**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**June 17, 2022**

<b>Members Present</b>	Sue Kendig, Bridget McCandless, Karlyle Christian Ritter, Sandra Jackson, Mary McLennan, , Huvona Watkins, Brenda Higgins, Megan Simmons, Melissa Terry, Denise Wilfley
<b>Members Absent</b>	Ebony January, Denise Willers, Wendy Doyle, Katherine Matthews, Karen Edison, Katie Towns
<b>Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS) Staff</b>	Paula Nickelson, Sarah Ehrhard Reid, Tracy Henson, Ashlie Otto
<b>Department of Social Services Staff (DSS)</b>	Jessica Dresner, Kim Evans
<b>Guests</b>	Mandy Hagseth, Sarah Verbiest

<b>Topic/Presenter</b>	<b>Discussion</b>
<b>Welcome</b>	Sue Kendig welcomed everyone to the Council meeting. Sue introduced Acting Director Paula Nickelson and asked for introductions. Introductions were made.
<b>Department of Health and Senior Services Update</b>	<p>Acting Director Nickelson has been with the Department of Health and Senior Services for 22 years. They will regroup and refocusing on leading causes of morbidity and mortality which remained heart disease and cancer number one and number two. COVID continues to be the third cause of mortality at this point in Missouri. They are very pleased to be able to refocus on original passions.</p> <p>They are planning to take a front and center approach as much as possible to talk about public health and how they interface with health care and behavioral health and how they impact that social services systems and Human Services systems. They are looking to maximize and optimize the relationships that were strengthened during the COVID response with all of those human services partners. They are committing to a statewide implementation of a model that’s called foundational public health services, which is a national model put forth by the public health foundation. The basic premise is there are six programmatic areas that every public health entity, regardless of local, state or federal should be able to implement in order for all people to be safe. They will be working to help all of the local public health agencies. Another focus for them is workforce.</p> <p>They met with Congressman Cleaver who is interested in maternal mortality. He called together a group to talk about what he could do in his role. They are optimistic that there may be some federal assets put to that work as well going forward.</p> <p>They have a couple of planning initiatives that are underway. They anticipate having an interagency planning group looking at opioid misuse and harm reduction. That will be facilitated by Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMSA) on their behalf.</p>

	<p>Martha Smith is the state’s Title V Maternal Child Health (MCH) Director. Martha is working with the assistance of Associated Maternal Child Health Programs (AMCHP) to bring in strategic planning in the fall around MCH issues. Acting director Nickelson asked Martha Smith to develop a new decision item specific to evidenced based intervention to impact infant mortality and maternal mortality in Missouri.</p> <p>They recognize the need to work across state departments in a very strategic and operational manor. Acting Director Nickelson then talked about the opioid settlement dollars.</p> <p>Question: Bridget McCandless-How do you think the Council could be good partners to the Department?</p> <p>Answer: Acting Director Nickelson – One of the recommendations was about looking at the board of healing arts application and how it phrases mental health issues. If the Council could support her with additional details on those recommendations as they are looking at them.</p> <p>Question: Mary McClennan – Is some of the opioid dollars going to be used for expanding and enhancing opioid programs throughout the country for care of those women particularly with respect to the more remote areas with some type of telehealth for the opioid crisis?</p> <p>Answer: Acting Director Nickelson – The vast majority of opioid dollars are going to the Department of Mental Health. They are using them for care and don’t remember if any are telehealth, but they will take a look at that and get the detail back to her. The components that were allocated to them were put toward naloxone distribution and to first responders and PDQ. Ashlie to follow up and get the detail to the Council.</p> <p>Sue talked about the Missouri Foundation for Health having maternal child health as a priority as well and they have done wonderful work over the past 10 years in terms of infant mortality reduction efforts in some of the highest risk areas of the state and they are building on that work for a maternal mortality initiative. Sue ask Megan to talk about this. They launched this initiative to promote high quality, equitable, perinatal care and intending to create a bridge between the clinical and the community.</p> <p>Sarah Verbiest is one of the co-directors for the National Maternal Health Learning and Innovation Center. She asked if they could have a vision are there any systems they would like to see working together around maternal health. A discussion followed.</p>
<p><b>Department of Social Services Update</b></p>	<p>Jessica Dresner gave an update on MO HealthNet managed care health plan contracts. She also talked about Show Me Health Kids and she will send a link for that information. Jessica then talked about the non-emergency medical transportation. They have a new initiative to look at data to disaggregate it. They will be starting on their maternal focus and their pregnant women. She gave an update on their provider education. Jessica talked about the Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) program, which is a program of all-inclusive care for the elderly. She also talked about provider rate increases. They are waiting to see what happens next session with the full 12-month postpartum bill.</p>

	<p>Jessica indicated there was money in the budget this year for some health information exchange efforts.</p> <p>Jessica talked about the money that was historically in the children’s division budget. It has been transferred to Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) with some of the other early childhood programs and efforts. She will get more information for the Council on home visits for young first time pregnancy women.</p> <p>They are looking at their policies and how they pay and what they do around early interventions for behavioral health, including Telehealth.</p> <p>Kim Evans gave an update on the Family Support Division.</p> <p>Question: Sarah Ehrhard Reid – She had the question in her notes from previous meetings whether pregnant women will move automatically to expansion if they are currently covered by Medicaid and if it would when their coverage ends postpartum or if they will need to reapply?</p> <p>Answer: Kim Evans – It is automatic. They want folks to ensure that they are keeping their correct address updated with them.</p> <p>Question: Karlyle Christian Ritter - What happens when the people are homeless and don’t have an address?</p> <p>Answer: Kim Evans – When they are homeless they try to get an address they would call home. If they do not, then they use the address to the closest resource center that they have. This is why they really are hoping to get the text messaging and email because they are seeing that some of their homeless individuals do have capability of getting that information.</p> <p>Sue asked that if anyone has questions for comments for Jess or Kim, to send to Sarah so she can facilitate getting that input over to their department.</p>
<p><b>Discussion of Priorities</b></p>	<p>Bridget thanked everyone who gave feedback, thoughts, and suggestions. They looked at modifying their calendar because they have been starting their process in November, and it took them through spring time to get the document done which is out of sync with the legislative agenda. They would like to plan to have them ready summer/fall so before pre-file they are able to give good guidance to the Department. They looked at the policy suggestions that they worked on the last time, modified it and tried to be very clear about what role they saw the Department serving. She thanked Sarah for going through the document and making sure there was great clarity in there. Bridget indicated they are ready for people to read and ratify so it can go as an official document to the department and then it becomes a public document and it can be share through their networks as well. If there are new items for consideration, it helps her in advance to be able to research those. They would like to send the document as a standalone with a header in the subject line “needs to be ratified” so that it can be read, give any comments, and give a “Yes” or “No” vote box in the email text. Sarah indicated that she will get that email out. It will be due back on July 24, 2022.</p> <p>Sue indicated that at the September meeting they will start looking at future priorities. A discussion for the date of the next Council meeting followed.</p>

<b>Adjourn</b>	The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 a.m.
<b>Next Meeting</b>	TBD