

**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 4<sup>th</sup> most diagnosed and 4<sup>th</sup> 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 9<sup>th</sup> 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 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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](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.**