

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

**January 18, 2024
Minutes**

Attending Task Force Members:

Dr. Sam Greenfield, AMDPA; Kim Wilmot, DHS; Kenya Eddings, AMHC; Rhelinda McFadden, AFMC; Pamela Brown, AHA; Rhonda Brown, ADH; Krista Kirksey Thomas, ACS; Portia Knowlton, St. Jude's

Absent Task Force Members:

Laura Fletcher, Community at Large; Dr. Amanda Deel, Arkansas Academy of Family Physicians; Dr. Mike Riddell, AMS

Other Meeting Attendees:

Nicole Blanks, Arkansas Cancer Coalition; Heather Mercer, ImmunizeAR

I. Welcome and Introductions

- a. Dr. Greenfield stated that he would like a survey to be made available with more commentary from CCTF members on how to be the most productive with the mission of what the task force does. The present task force members agreed to continue with the current meeting time of 4:30pm. Dr. Greenfield stated that we have a charge to make recommendations to the Breast Cancer Advisory Board every year, but I don't think we've ever put together a product to that effect.
- b. Portia Knowlton has joined the CCTF on behalf of Julia Brown who has transitioned out of her job as coordinator for Arkansas. Knowlton is a Program Manager for the HPV Cancer Prevention Program at St. Jude's. as the coordinator for Arkansas and Alabama. Dr. Greenfield went over the drafted recommendations to the Breast Cancer Advisory Board. He would like to send a survey out for comments and feedback. The review process for the recommendations can take up to six weeks for the approval process, not including other developments.

II. Member Updates

- a. On behalf of Dr. Riddell, Dr. Greenfield discussed an expansion of the teleposcopy program to add two additional sites to enlarge coverage of Arkansas.
- b. Dr. Greenfield presented the research implementation of a cervix cancer therapeutic service, cancer, cervical dysplasia, vaccine study that was closed out at UAMS. He stated that "We showed some benefit with our candidate that we added our newly developed vaccine, but the initial review of the therapeutic vaccine doesn't appear to have as much impact as we would have liked".
- c. Rhonda Brown shared that ADH released a press release for Cervical Cancer Awareness Month and received inquiries from local news channels, in which

Dr. Bala Simon responded. She also stated that ADH is looking to expand their telescopy program as well.

- d. Kenya Moore shared that the Arkansas Minority Health Commission are promoting Cervical Cancer Awareness Month on their social media.
- e. Heather Mercer shared that ImmunizeAR made posts for Cervical Cancer Awareness Month, as well as promoting the HPV Summit set for May 3rd. Registration opens on February 1st. They were approved to offer 5.75 CE hours for nurses, physicians, pharmacists, pharmacy technicians, and physician assistants.
- f. Dr. Rhelinda McFadden stated that AFMC are partnering with ADH and Arkansas Medicaid to promote primary care pediatrics. They are continuing to focus on education for cervical and breast cancer.
- g. Kim Wilmot shared that ADH is working with Arkansas Medicaid for updates for adult immunizations. They are going through promulgation at the governor's office. Once they get that back, they will have a better understanding of time frames for finalization. They are also looking into vaccine counseling codes. Medicaid currently doesn't cover adult vaccines.
- h. Portia Knowlton shared that St. Jude's are hosting a meeting for the HPV Vaccination of the Southeast Roundtable from January 22-23 to discuss 14 evidence-based interventions. They will get the number of interventions narrowed down to make sure the messages communicate effectively with all types of community partners about the importance of HPV vaccination.

III. Other Business

- a. Dr. Greenfield stated that a survey will be put together and sent out to members for comments and will be discussed at the next meeting in April.
- b. Rhonda Brown stated that we should focus on making a recommendation to the Breast Cancer Control Advisory Board, since that's the big charge of the CCTF to prepare a document with the most important points that we want to put forward.
- c. Heather Mercer discussed narrowing down what the taskforce is going to do and how to do it. Kenya Eddings and Dr. McFadden expressed similar sentiments.
- d. Kim Wilmot and Heather Mercer discussed the possibilities of pharmacies becoming VFC providers. Immunize AR has funding from Arkansas Children's to help with becoming VFC providers. They are targeting the counties where there is no other VFC provider except for the local health units. One of the counties includes Nevada county.

IV. Agenda Items for April

- a. Discuss survey with comments for recommendations

The meeting adjourned at 5:24pm.

The next meeting is April 18, 2024, at 4:30 p.m. via Zoom.