

Missouri Women’s Health Council
Webex
Meeting Minutes
December 9, 2021

Members Present	Sue Kendig, Bridget McCandless, Karen Edison, Katherine Matthews, Melissa Terry, Sandra Jackson, Wendy Doyle, Ebony January, Karlyle Christian Ritter
Members Absent	Paula Baker, Sherry Maxwell, Mary McLennan, Denise Willers
Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS) Staff	Don Kauerauf, Martha Smith, Sarah Ehrhard Reid, Tracy Henson
Department of Social Services Staff (DSS)	Jessica Dresner, Justin Clutter
Guests	Huvona Watkins, Mandy Hagseth, Simone Taylor

Topic/Presenter	Discussion
Welcome	Sue Kendig welcomed Director Don Kauerauf on behalf of the Council. There are members of the public who join the meetings regularly. Introductions were made.
Department of Health and Senior Services Update	<p>Don Kauerauf introduced himself and gave background history. He worked in the public sector for over 35 years. He retired in 2016 as the assistant director of Illinois Public Health. One thing he was very interested in were programs to have incentives in public health within the workforce. They were the second state in the country to implement within the workforce at state public health, an infant at work program. It is a program where mothers and caregivers could bring in their child to age six months into the office. There were some controls and it was pre COVID.</p> <p>Director Kauerauf indicated that here in Missouri there is an opportunity to centralize some of the programs for women’s health issue and work collectively and collaboratively going forward. His focus is on prevention and one thing he is going to bring to the Department is to look at how they can do preventative services.</p> <p>The Director talked about his visit to the Mississippi County Health Department in the bootheel of Missouri.</p> <p>Women’s Health issues is one of the priority programs. The Director is hopeful that the Department will start setting priorities going forward and hopefully he will provide guidance to not only council, but task forces for associations so that there is a better understanding of what the goals are based on the feedback to start collectively going in the same direction as a state. The stats show that Missouri is the 50th in the country in per capita spending on public health.</p> <p>Director Kauerauf talked about the social determinants of health and addressing those issues. One of the initiatives is to increase fluoridation in North Eastern Missouri.</p>

	<p>Karen Edison indicated that they could have a partnership in the state with the local public health agencies about the new benefit rolling out for childhood and family weight management through MO HealthNet. They have an ECHO on childhood weight management and they will be intensifying those efforts for the group therapy sessions and the local public health agencies could be a key partner. Director Kauerauf talked about macro prevention, which means we need the public to understand who we are as a public health.</p> <p>Sue asked the Director how the Council could help him and help to inform the initiatives. He said the council could help him better understand where some of the various programs are that offer services to support women’s health issues and to help him understand the environment. He is trying to look for the pillars, those places where things naturally connect and to look for the broader view of those issues. The second thing is where are those areas we can start bringing into the umbrella of women’s health. There is a great university system that we have to tap into to be part of this solution and take advantage of the research available through this.</p> <p><u>Questions and Answers</u></p> <p>Questions-Dr. McCandless: The Council sees themselves as a way to raise issues that may or may not be fully on the agenda or radar for the Department and have put out an annual items of concern to women who are working on these issues in the state and asked Director Kauerauf if that is helpful.</p> <p>Answer-Director Kauerauf: That would be tremendously helpful. Continue in that role, but as you identify the issue, it would be very helpful to come forward with what you think would be a solution, but multiple solutions that help us achieve those goals. That would be very helpful for me.</p> <p>Questions-Sue Kendig: We sent some nominations to add to the Council to get up to our full capacity and I believe those are with you. Do you have any idea when we might hear?</p> <p>Answer-Director Kaureauf: Yes, I’m hopeful within the next week I will give you a response back on those.</p> <p>Sue thanked Director Kauerauf and mentioned that the director is always on the Council’s agenda and has a standing invitation. If there are specific questions the Council would invite the Director to send them to the Council before the meeting. If there are any pressing issues the Council has been known to convene in between meetings to provide advice.</p> <p>Questions-Director Kauerauf: What is a step we can take as a state to reintroduce some of the women’s health issues? Is there a very macro thing we can do to start reintroducing to the public of Missouri the reports of women’s health issues?</p> <p>Answer: Sue Kendig: We will think on it and put some collective thinking together.</p>
<p>Department of Social Services Update</p>	<p>Jessica Dresner introduced Justin Clutter who works with their transformation office. Justin presented a transformation dashboard presentation and shared some of the projects that they have been working on.</p> <p>Jessica will work with Tracy and Sarah to see if they can get Kim Evans on the next quarter meeting. Jessica mentioned they are making a couple of changes and one is that their managed care experts are going to work on the same team as their education folk so they are hearing what others are getting from providers and how</p>

	<p>they are answering for providers to make sure that all their folks are on the page and well educated as they can be. She also talked about the webinars and how they would like to have that program look at the beginning of 2023. In regards to maternal health and their nursing personnel, they are going to try to use those nurses in some of the program areas. Jessica also gave an update on expansion.</p> <p>Question – Bridget McCandless: How do you feel like the processing of applications is going, the website follow up with people who have questions. Answer-Jessica Dresner: We just haven’t had as quick an uptick as expected.</p> <p>Question-Have you considered modifying your outreach approach? Answer-Jessica Dresner: We have not here at MO HealthNet. I’ve been trying to monitor that on the questions that we have been getting with regard to when people actually do get in the door; and are the processes working the way they are supposed to and the way people expect.</p>
Discussion of Nominations	<p>Sarah indicated for the meeting dates that we would like to try a poll to see if any of the dates work best for the Council. We worked with Dr. Kaureauf for his availability for February and March and can follow up with folks who could not attend and get the date out to everyone. This is for the first quarter meeting. If this method works we will continue to do the poll as people’s calendars change and things come up. We plan to have the next meeting as a WebEx from 10-12. Sarah will send out an email for the meeting dates.</p> <p>The Council moved into the priority conversation and Sarah pulled up last year’s priority document. The Council discussed the document priorities. Sue asked how to proceed with the document and should the Council take the same approach where they take the existing document and add to it and revise it using a small committee and then present it to the group. Issues that were discussed to add to the priorities document are: economics of women and how they strengthen the state, appreciating pay raises for state employees, a focus on postpartum coverage, a discussion of reproductive health including the available, reliable, affordable contraception and telehealth. Bridget will draft a document and then have people who want to go through the document read it and modify it.</p>
Adjourn	The meeting was adjourned at noon.
Next Meeting	February 16, 2022