

**Interagency Committee for Women's Health
Meeting Minutes
February 26, 2007**

The first meeting of 2007 was held on February 26, 2007, at the Florida Department Health, Building 4025, Conference Room 301. The meeting was convened by Jean Kline, Florida's Women's Health Officer, at 1:35 P.M. The meeting began with remarks by Jean Kline and an introduction of members of the Department of Health's Women's Health Program.

The members of the women's health team include

- Tamara Yang Demko – Assistant Deputy Secretary for Health
- Betsy Wood – Executive Community Health Nursing Director, Infant Maternal and Reproductive Health
- Katherine Kamiya – Consultant, Women's Health
- Tiffany Simpkins – Coordinator, Women's Health
- Katie Jones – Special Projects Coordinator, Women's Health
- Cheryl Robbins – Consultant, Women's Health
- Corine Mealing – Intern, Women's Health

After the introduction of the women's health team, members of the Interagency Committee were invited to introduce themselves and the name of their agency. Jean Kline personally congratulated the committee on successfully developing the Status of Women's Health in Florida-Data Report, the Survey of Florida Women's Health Programs and establishing the first Governor's Conference on Women's Health and asked each member to fill out a commitment card and return to Tiffany Simpkins as soon as possible. Betsy Wood then proceeded to review the meeting materials and delivered a presentation on the major accomplishments of the committee.

Major Accomplishments of the Interagency Committee for Women's Health

- Interagency Committee formed in April 2005
- Completed a survey of state programs for women's health
- Coordinated the first Governor's Conference on Women's Health in May 2006
- Completed the Women's Health Data Report 2006
- Coordinated the first Women's Health Strategic Planning Meeting in November 2006
- Compiled a Report of the Strategic Planning meeting to the Department of Health
- Developed a series of recommendations to improve the overall health status of women in Florida

Upon completion of the presentation, members of the committee were encouraged to ask questions and offer any comments. Tiffany Simpkins then reviewed the roles and responsibilities of each member and identified the subcommittees and their tasks. The members of the Interagency Committee are invited to serve on the committee to lend their knowledge, expertise and ability to influence changes in policies and practices that will improve the health of women in Florida.

Structure of the Interagency Committee for Women's Health

The Interagency Committee meets on a quarterly basis. In addition, members are invited to serve on standing subcommittees. The standing subcommittees are the:

- **Conference Planning Subcommittee** is charged to provide content and process expertise in developing a Governor's Conference on Women's Health.
- **Public Awareness and Education Subcommittee** is charged to promote public awareness and education on the health needs of women, guide the development of a web-based clearinghouse on women's health issues and resource, and develop ideas to recognize Women's Health Month.
- **Strategic Initiatives Subcommittee** is charged to participate in the development of a Statewide Women's Health Plan, ensure that agencies incorporate strategies for advancing women's health

in their internal policies and programs, and address other legislative mandates within Section 381.04015, Florida Statutes

- **Duties of the Department of Health, Agency for Health Care Administration and the Department of Elder Affairs:** are instructed to consider women's health issues in annual budget planning; ensure that gender-specific issues are considered when assessing research and selecting demonstration proposals that are applying for state funding; encourage equal representation of women and men boards and advisory bodies.

Katie Jones presented an overview of activities for Women's Health Month, which is scheduled for May 2007. **The following activities are planned for Women's Health Month:**

1. Governor's proclamation declaring the month of May as a time to focus on women's health.
2. Collaborate with DOH Step Up Florida Coordinators, state agencies, Healthy Start Coalitions, and other organizations to promote activities at the local level through the utilization of a women's health education/promotion kit created by Women's Health.
3. Provide education/promotion kits to all interested parties.
4. Encourage participants to register their activities with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office on Women's Health (www.4women.gov)
5. Feature Women's Health Month information on Women's Health external website.
6. Host a statewide conference focusing on women's health on May 15- 16, 2007.

Tiffany Simpkins provided a detailed update on the Governor's Conference on Women's Health

2007 Governor's Conference on Women's Health

The conference is scheduled for May 15-16, 2007 at the Tampa Convention Center. This year's host hotel is the Embassy Suites Tampa-Downtown-Convention Center, connected to the Tampa Convention Center via skywalk from the second floor. Registration for the conference is \$80.00 and includes a Women's Health Conference Bag and memorabilia, two luncheons, health screenings and access to all conference related activities. Guest rooms are available at the Embassy Suites at the conference rate of **\$145** per suite, per night. Make your reservations today by calling 1-800-EMBASSY or (813) 769-8300. Conference rate code: **CWH**.

For more information about the Governor's Conference on Women's Health, please visit the Women's Health Website at: www.doh.state.fl.us/womenshealth. If you wish further information on the Health Disparities Summit, please contact the Office of Minority Health.

The meeting concluded with a presentation on the HPV Vaccination and the Department of Health's recommendations and current activities relating to the HPV legislation. Phyllis Yambor, Bureau of Immunizations, gave a detailed presentation and urged members to contact her directly if they had specific questions. Phyllis Yambor can be reached at Phyllis_Yambor@doh.state.fl.us. Betsy Wood adjourned the meeting on behalf of Jean Kline at 2:45 P.M.

The next Interagency Committee on Women's Health meeting is scheduled for May 15, 2007 at the Tampa Convention Center from 4:30 P.M. to 5:45 P.M.

Attachments: Meeting Agenda; PowerPoint Presentation; List of Women's Health Month Activities; Commitment Card

Attendance: Thirty-two committee members attended the meeting with 15 state agencies and organizations represented.