

**Virginia Council on Women
Subcommittee – Women’s Healthcare Initiative**

Draft Minutes
October 13, 2015
1:00 PM – 2:30 PM

The October 13, 2015 meeting of the Women’s Healthcare Initiative Subcommittee (WHI) took place at Café Caturra, 5811 Grove Avenue, Richmond, Virginia 23226.

Members present:

Meredith Johnson Harbach, Chair
Lashrecse Aird
Sally Mullikin
Susan Rowland

Staff present:

Katherine Waddell, Special Advisor, Office of the Secretary of the Commonwealth
Midian Yohannes, Fall Intern, Virginia Council on Women

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Meredith Harbach called the meeting to order at approximately 1:25 PM and welcomed all members.

The group began by adopting the meeting agenda. Reading of the March 13, 2015 minutes was waived, and the subcommittee adopted the minutes.

Old Business

- The group debriefed last Spring’s Service Project with Housing Families First to commemorate Virginia Women’s and Girls’ Wellness month
 - All involved agreed that the event was a tremendous success
 - The group is interested in continuing this as an annual tradition, and would also be interested in continuing our work with Housing Families First
 - One potential enhancement to the project would be to secure opportunities for donations and contributions to Housing Families First for those Council Members who aren’t local or are otherwise unable to attend
 - We might also explore the possibility of coordinating other events across the Commonwealth

New Business

- Status of Women’s Health and Reproductive Health in the Commonwealth
 - Katherine Waddell reported to the group on the recent Virginia Board of Health meeting at which Regulations for the Licensure of Abortion Facilities were amended
- WHI Membership

- The group discussed the upcoming departure of Lashrecse Aird and the need to coordinate with Council Chair Meta Braymer on filling the vacancy
- Goals for 2015-16
 - For the 2015-16 term, the WHI resolved to build on its successes but keep its focus relatively narrow so as to execute a few projects/initiatives well
 - The WHI would like to continue and build upon events during April to raise visibility for Virginia Women's and Girls' Wellness Month
 - Interaction with Virginia General Assembly
 - The group would like to be positioned to engage with the 2016 General Assembly on issues that fall within the scope of its work consistent with the Governor's 2015 request that the Council form the WHI
 - Engagement might include written correspondence similar to last spring's letter, and possibly public comment or testimony on proposed legislation
 - The group also discussed the need to respond relatively-quickly to legislative developments
 - In this regard, the group discussed conversations with the Council's liason from the Virginia Attorney General's office
 - The protocol for taking action on behalf of the Council is to secure a quorum of the Council and take a vote on the proposed action; a majority vote authorizes such action
- Women's Summit
 - The group discussed how the WHI might best support and be involved in planning for the upcoming Virginia Women's Summit
 - The group agreed that it would like to propose and coordinate events relating to women's access to Healthcare in Virginia, including potentially securing a speaker on related issues

Next Meeting

- Meredith Harbach will circulate a Doodle poll for a November 2015 meeting after fall elections to discuss next steps

Meredith Harbach adjourned the meeting at approximately 2:30 PM.