

Sunset Public Hearing Questions for
Advisory Committee on Women's Health
Created by Section 68-1-1804, *Tennessee Code Annotated*
(Sunset termination June 2015)

1. Provide a brief introduction to the committee, including information about its purpose, statutory duties and staff and explain its relationship to the Office of Women's Health in the Department of Health.

Public Chapter 954 of the Acts of the 2000 General Assembly designated an Office of Women's Health located within the Department of Health. The act was established "for the purpose of educating the public concerning women's health issues and for advocating initiatives to enhance the quality of life for women in the state." The office was to be designated from existing resources of the Department. The law authorized, but did not require, the Commissioner to appoint an advisory committee on women's health to assist in advising the office.

Current programs and services for women provided by the Department of Health include: Tennessee Breast and Cervical Screening Program, Family Planning Program, Project Diabetes, Tobacco Prevention and Control, screening and treatment for sexually transmitted diseases, presumptive eligibility for pregnant women, Nutrition and WIC, Tennessee Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Program, Rape Prevention and Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention.

Recent women's health activities include:

- National Women's Health Week is celebrated annually in May and normally kicks off on Mother's Day. Each year the womenshealth.gov website is utilized to assist with direction of activities that encourage women to make their health a priority
- Department of Health staff continue to provide folic acid education and multivitamins to reproductive age women seen in local health department clinics.
- The Department of Health continues to promote the QuitLine to assist citizens with smoking cessation. Women of reproductive age are a major target population.
- The Department of Health's web site contains the latest edition of *The Health of Tennessee's Women 2012*. This data publication examines some of the factors that affect the health status of Tennessee's female population. Maternal risk factors such as inadequate prenatal care, smoking, poor nutrition, and age greatly impact pregnancy outcomes. Adolescent mothers are at particular risk of having low-weight babies, as are mothers age 40 years and older. Mortality trends and behavioral risks for women of all ages are also addressed in this report.
- The Department's web site has a link to the Vanderbilt Tennessee Women's Health Report Card.
- In 2013 Tennessee became a member of Cervical Cancer Free America.
- Women's Health Conference held in spring of 2014 for approximately 250 public health care providers from across the state.
- Launch of toll-free Tennessee Breastfeeding Hotline in 2013.

- 2. Provide a list of current members of the committee. For each member please indicate who appointed the member, how the member's presence on the committee complies with Section 68-1-1804(b), *Tennessee Code Annotated*, and the member's county of principal residence. Please indicate each member's race and gender and which members, if any, are 60 years of age or older. Are there any vacancies on the committee? If so, what is being done to fill those vacancies?**

The Committee currently has no members. The Committee did not meet in FY2013 and there are no planned meetings for FY2014.

- 3. How many times did the committee meet in fiscal year 2013 and to date for 2014, and how many members were present at each meeting?**

The committee did not meet in FY2013 and there are no planned meetings for 2014.

- 4. What per diem or travel reimbursement do committee members receive? How much was paid to committee members during fiscal year 2013 and to date for 2014?**

N/A. The committee did not meet in FY2013 and there are no planned meetings for 2014.

- 5. What were the committee's revenues (by source) and expenditures (by object) for fiscal year 2013 and to date for 2014? Does the committee carry a fund balance and, if so, what is the total of that fund balance? If expenditures exceeded revenues, and the committee does not carry a fund balance, what was the source of the revenue for the excess expenditures?**

N/A. The committee did not have any revenues/expenditures for FY2013 and none are planned for FY2014.

- 6. Is the committee subject to Sunshine law requirements (Section 8-44-101 et seq., *Tennessee Code Annotated*) for public notice of meetings, prompt and full recording of minutes, and public access to minutes? If so, what procedures does the committee have for informing the public of meetings and making minutes available to the public?**

Yes, the Committee is subject to sunshine laws. There have been no meetings of the Committee in FY2013 or FY2014.

- 7. How does the committee ensure that its members and staff are operating in an impartial manner and that there are no conflicts of interest? If the committee operates under a formal conflict of interest policy, please attach a copy of that policy.**

N/A. The Committee currently has no members.

8. What were the committee's major accomplishments during fiscal year 2013 and to date for 2014?

Even though the committee has not been active, the promotion of women's health has continued through daily activities of multiple programs within the Tennessee Department of Health:

- The Tennessee Breast and Cervical Cancer Screening Program provides free screening and diagnostic services for uninsured/under insured women between the ages of 40 - 64 and 250% below poverty level.
- Tennessee formed a Cervical Cancer Elimination Committee with partners from across the state working in public, private and academic settings with the shared goal of eliminating cervical cancer by 2040 with increased screening and HPV vaccination. In 2013 TN became a member state of Cervical Cancer-Free America.
- The Family Planning Program also provides well women exams along with preconception and contraceptive counseling.
- Enrollment in presumptive eligibility for TennCare for pregnant women and women with abnormal breast or cervical screening.
- WIC Nutrition and Breastfeeding Promotion and Breastfeeding Hotline
- Tennessee Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Program
- Tennessee Tobacco QuitLine
- Project Diabetes
- Screening and treatment of sexually transmitted infections
- Primary care services
- Rape prevention
- COIIN initiatives of 39 weeks project, tobacco cessation, perinatal regionalization, and preconception care.
- Annual Women's Health Conference for public health providers from across the state; topics included cervical cancer screening and management guidelines, contraceptive update, perimenopause, HPV vaccine, neonatal abstinence syndrome, motivational interviewing, and the life course model.
- TennCare maternity workgroup

9. Has the committee set goals and measured its performance compared to the goals? What performance indicators or goals does management use to measure the effectiveness and efficiency of the committee? How well has the committee performed based on those performance indicators?

N/A. The Committee did not meet in FY2013 and there are no meetings planned for FY2014.

10. What reports does the committee prepare concerning its activities, operations and accomplishments? Who receives copies of these reports? Please attach copies of any such reports issued during fiscal year 2013 and to date for 2014.

The Committee has not met in FY2013 or FY2014. The Committee itself does not prepare reports. The Department has other reports related to Women's Health that are

publicly available, including: *The Health of Tennessee's Women, Family Planning Annual Report, Tennessee's Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System 2011, and Adolescent Pregnancy Summary Data.*

11. Describe any items related to the committee that require legislative attention and your proposed legislative changes.

N/A.

12. Should the committee be continued? To what extent and in what ways would the absence of the committee affect the public health, safety, or welfare?

The Department recommends that T.C.A. 68-1-1084 be discontinued. There are not (and have never been) dedicated funding sources for specific projects relative to this committee. Programmatic efforts related to women's health are funded through various other sources and administered by several sections within the Department of Health and by numerous other partners in state government and in the private sector. It is absolutely vital to maintain focus on the health of women in this state; however, the functions of this committee are represented in myriad other programs and functions both within and external to the Department of Health. Public health, safety, and welfare will not be impacted, as all the programmatic efforts will continue in the absence of this office.

13. Please list all committee programs or activities that receive federal financial assistance and, therefore are required to comply with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Include the amount of federal funding received by program/activity.

The committee and office do not receive any federal funding for women's health.

If the committee does receive federal assistance, please answer questions 14 through 21. If the committee does not receive federal assistance, proceed directly to question 20.

14. Does your committee prepare a Title VI plan? If yes, please provide a copy of the most recent plan.

15. Does your committee have a Title VI coordinator? If yes, please provide the Title VI coordinator's name and phone number and a brief description of his/her duties. If not, provide the name and phone number of the person responsible for dealing with Title VI issues.

16. To which state or federal agency (if any) does your committee report concerning Title VI? Please describe the information your committee submits to the state or federal government and/or provide a copy of the most recent report submitted.

17. Describe your committee's actions to ensure that committee staff and clients/program participants understand the requirements of Title VI.

18. Describe your committee's actions to ensure it is meeting Title VI requirements. Specifically, describe any committee monitoring or tracking activities related to Title VI, and how frequently these activities occur.
19. Please describe the committee's procedures for handling Title VI complaints. Has your committee received any Title VI-related complaints during the past two years? If yes, please describe each complaint, how each complaint was investigated, and how each complaint was resolved (or, if not yet resolved, the complaint's current status).
- 20. Please provide a breakdown of current committee staff by title, ethnicity, and gender.**

A committee does not currently exist.

- 21. Please list all committee contracts, detailing each contractor, the services provided, the amount of the contract, and the ethnicity of the contractor/business owner.**

There are no committee contracts.

Supplemental Questions

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1. What are your key measures for ensuring that your organization is meeting its goals?

N/A

2. What are the statistical reliability and accuracy (for objective measures) or validity and repeatability (for subjective measures) of your key measures?

N/A

3. What is the record (over time) of those key measures in relation to what they should be to accomplish the goal of the organization? (I would like to see charts that have a performance mean and 3-standard deviation limits marked on them for these measures. Note: if these cannot be provided, I would like a valid explanation and a plan for future implementation.)

N/A

4. Explain any excessive variation in your key measures.

N/A

5. What unique events or special causes have driven your key measures beyond 3 standard deviations from the mean in the past and what have done about them?

N/A

6. What impediments, if any, prevent you from driving those key measures to the desired point?

N/A

7. How are you addressing/correcting the impediments, if any, that prevent you from driving those key measures to the desired point?

N/A