

Time: 4:00 – 5:00 pm

Location: Webex

Voting Members Present: Drs. Thomas Agresta, Anton Alerte (4:26), Jenna Bartley, Audrey Chapman, Kirsten Guertin, Adam Perrin, Linda Shapiro, Jody Terranova, Kristyn Zajac, and Ms. Deb Polun

Voting Members Excused: Dr. Michael Grey, Jaclyn Olsen-Jaeger, Andrea Shields and Ms. Carolyn Alessi

Non-Voting Members: Dr. Linda Barry

Non-Voting Members Excused: Dr. Enrique Ballesteros

Others in Attendance: Dr. Christopher Steele

Dr. Bartley called the meeting to order at 4:17 p.m.

1. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Motion made by Ms. Polun, seconded by Dr. Perrin to approve the minutes of the February 26, 2024 meeting.

Favor to approve: 9

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Motion Passed: 9:0

2. Discussion regarding the SCOTUS Affirmative Action Executive Summary ensued and was decided to hold off for more of the committee members to contribute to the summary and will be voted on next meeting.

3. Update from Deans Council presented by Dr. Perrin focused on finalizing the operating guidelines and announced that voting for committee and councils opened today. Dr. Bartley added that the PIC will need to add details in the Operating Guidelines regarding electing the chair and the chair's term. She noted that we will vote on this next meeting.

4. No update from the Oversight Committee as Dr. Ballesteros not in attendance.

5. Dr. Terranova and Dr. Steele along with committee members ensued in discussion from their presentation regarding misinformation and politicization of vaccinations in CT. Dr. Terranova presented data of Connecticut Immunization rates and reported on children, adolescents, and adults. In Connecticut, regarding vaccinated Kindergarteners are above 90 percent and above the national average, doing better after removing the religious exemptions. Adolescence vaccinations reported by National Immunization Survey conducted by CDC which captures all public schools, home schools, and private schools in Connecticut, are overall above the national average. Regarding Adult vaccinations, Influenza completed by survey from the CDC reports Connecticut is above the national average and has held steady through the COVID pandemic. Covid vaccinations reported on adults is about 28 percent. Pneumococcal vaccinations are about 73 percent which is reported by recall and in line with national average. Shingles vaccinations

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reported by survey is around 45 percent and below the national average. The committee further examined the Shingles vaccination series and supply. It was reported patients were willing to receive the vaccination, but it was not available at that time which caused a decline. Overall, Dr. Terranova reports Connecticut is doing well with all vaccinations.

Resurgence of Measles and MMR discussion continued. Currently there are no cases in Connecticut and our overall coverage is good for school age children. There are about 70 schools across state that are below 95 percent coverage which is needed for herd immunity. The Department of Public Health is working with State Department of Education to do outreach to inform those schools of their susceptibility to an outbreak.

Dr. Steele presented on equity, hesitancy and misinformation of vaccinations. Many of the topics include; religious beliefs, patient's access and availability, insurance coverage, side effects to vaccination, patient's poor estimation of risks, patients having no concept of the disease, freedom of choice, utilizing a diverse population involvement in the community, validating misinformation on social media, algorithms on social media, exploitative marketing on misinformation, systemic institutional racism within medicine, poor tracking for adult vaccinations/screenings, health literacy and lack of patient education, and alternative medicine. The committee decided that we will continue the discussion more in depth at the next meeting.

Adjournment:

Motion made by Dr. Bartley, seconded by Dr. Alerte, the meeting was adjourned, and concluded at 5:19 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Sullivan

Next Regularly Scheduled Meeting

[Public Issues Council Operating Guidelines](#)

May 13, 2024