

THE RIGHT TIME INITIATIVE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

APPLICATION TO SERVE

Missouri Family Health Council, Inc.
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Missouri Family Health Council, Inc. seeks applications from persons interested in serving on *The Right Time* Advisory Committee for a minimum two-year term, beginning in March 2019. Please submit the following application to TheRightTime@mfhc.org, no later than **Friday, March 15, 2019, at 5 p.m.** in order to be considered. Applicants will be notified of selection by **Tuesday, April 3.**

An introductory call for those selected to serve on the Advisory Committee will be held on **Tuesday, April 9, at 9 a.m.** **Please save the date now, so you are available for this call, if selected.**

Introduction

The United States Department of Health and Human Services has identified reducing the national rate of unintended pregnancy as a critical step to improving health. Unintended pregnancies are those reported to have been either unwanted (i.e., occurring when no children, or no more children, were desired) or mistimed (i.e., occurring earlier than desired). Unintended childbearing is associated with a number of adverse maternal and child health outcomes, including inadequate or delayed initiation of prenatal care, smoking and drinking during pregnancy, premature birth, poor breastfeeding initiation and duration rates, and higher rates of child neglect and maltreatment.

In Missouri, 51 percent of pregnancies are unintended, as reported by women themselves. Of those unintended pregnancies, 72 percent are publicly funded by Medicaid, costing Missouri \$518 million in 2010. Women most in need of contraceptive services are uninsured or underinsured, geographically isolated, low-income, teens, and/or women of color. These groups experience the highest rates of unintended pregnancy. In 2013, there were 393,170 low-income women in Missouri in need of family planning services. Many of these women rely on publicly funded family planning services including state and local health departments, Title X clinics, federally qualified health centers (FQHCs), and Planned Parenthood affiliates. The use of contraceptives, especially long-acting reversible contraceptives (LARCs), has been a major factor in decreasing unintended pregnancy rates in the last decade; however, cost and administrative barriers prohibit publicly-funded clinics from stocking and providing the full range of contraceptive methods.

Missouri Family Health Council, Inc. (MFHC), a private nonprofit organization, champions access for every individual to culturally sensitive, quality, sexual and reproductive health education and services. Our mission is achieved in two primary ways: through advocacy to break down systemic policy barriers, which decrease health equity and impede access to services; and improving quality services through programming. MFHC is proud to support systems of care throughout the state, with particular emphasis on safety net providers, in delivering patient-centered reproductive healthcare to all those who seek services. Our programming is focused on removing cost barriers, specifically for the uninsured, and

supporting health centers through quality training, analysis, and collaboration. Missouri Family Health Council is serving as the Program Office for *The Right Time* initiative.

The Right Time is a six-year initiative, funded by Missouri Foundation for Health, that is based on the simple belief that everyone should have the opportunity to pursue the future they want, including if, when, and under what circumstances to get pregnant. Recognizing that decision always rest with the patient, the effort – through education and awareness – aims to empower individuals to take control of their own health by improving information about, and removing barriers to, contraceptive services. With a focus on health disparities, the goal of *The Right Time* is to reduce Missouri’s unintended pregnancy rate by ten percent.

The Right Time has three key parts:

1. Working with health care professionals to increase the supply and availability of the full range of quality contraceptive services and reduce barriers to quality care.
2. Reaching women and families in need of information and options and empowering patients to make informed decisions through education and awareness.
3. Galvanizing individuals and stakeholders to support and influence factors essential to providing accessible, high-quality contraceptive care.

The Right Time Advisory Committee serves not as a governance or decision-making body, but instead as a reflective body to provide input and guidance on strategy and effectiveness throughout the life of the project. This is especially important as the project gets off the ground, as well as adapts to changing environmental factors, and continues to grow its clinical base of participating health centers over the course of its project life. Taking a broad view of the initiative, the Advisory Committee will answer questions and provide reflection and input throughout the project, specifically in areas of equity, quality improvement, and evaluation findings. This is a voluntary position, provided no compensation.

Responsibilities of the Advisory Committee body include the following:

- Participating in quarterly calls, as well as one in-person annual meeting or learning conference, and any additional calls on an as-needed basis
- Answering questions and providing reflection and input, specifically in areas of equity, quality improvement, and on evaluation findings
- Provide review and input on transition from year 1 of project

Responsibilities of individual members include the following:

- Participating in quarterly calls, as well as one in-person annual meeting, and any additional calls on an as-needed basis;
- Provide feedback through the lens of expertise and geography, including reflection and input on project strategy, effectiveness, and quality improvement, especially as related to the changing needs of the project throughout environmental changes and during its second and third cohorts of participating health centers;
- Communicate with Program Office on availability to participate in calls, meetings, and as it relates to serving on the Advisory Committee
- Respect discretion about sharing internal project information
- Serve as on-the-ground reference to connect project with other local experts, as needed ; and

- Serve for at least a two-year term and communicate with Program Office about the continuation or discontinuation of serving on this body.

Please note that this application is for the initial term from 2019 – 2021, but terms are renewable.

Applicant Information

Name: _____

Employer: _____

Position/Title: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

How did you hear about this opportunity?

Why are you interested in serving on *The Right Time* Advisory Committee?

What qualifications or expertise do you have that would be an asset to *The Right Time* Advisory Committee?

What experience do you have serving on similar advisory committees, boards, commissions, or task forces?

How do your skills or experience relate to health equity?