Present: Deborah Allen, Colleen Dixon, Kelly Hanson, Katie Harding-Mendez, Chris Hawkins, Danielle Koenig, Lauren Lutz, Mary Ann O’Garro, Christy Peters, Karmel Shields, Dae Shogren, Hillary Soens, Meghan Sullivan, Kateri Wimsett, Ashley Zimmer.

**Welcome: Introduction and Good News Round**

**Office on Women’s Health Updates**

Coalition was welcomed by TCPHSS staff. After introductions and sharing of good news from Coalition members, Chris Hawkins gave a short summary of the current Office on Women’s Health (OWH) updates.

- A new staff member from TCPHSS, Kristy Matthews will begin to work on the project with TCPHSS staff this month. Kristy works as a part of the Nurse-Family Partnership in the Maternal Child Health Section of TCPHSS. She brings a wealth of experience from long term work in adolescent health.

- In March, OWH staff visited for their annual site visit. They spent their two day visit attending Coalition Subcommittee meetings, meeting Coalition members, visiting Girl’s Circle sites, meeting with the University of Washington researchers, and meeting with TCPHSS staff. They were pleased with the continued work of the coalition and the implementation of Girl’s Circle here in Thurston County.

- Currently TCPHSS staff is putting together the remaining paperwork for the non-competing reapplication due June 2nd.

- TCPHSS staff will file their quarterly progress report on July 9th and attend the national meeting of the Office on Women’s Health grantees at the end of June.

**Progress**

**Communications Subcommittee Update**

Danielle Koenig and Meghan Sullivan presented the newest addition to the Coalition Communication Plan, the social marketing blueprint. The committee has worked since March to draft a social marketing plan to address two goals: 1) Spread the word about Girls Circle and 2) Reduce violence and abuse among girls.

The draft was well received by the Coalition members. The group liked the youth focused approach of the plan, particularly that of using youth as the spokespeople for the implementation of the plan. Adding youth to the planning process or to the implementation process through focus grouping or through other ways was voiced as very important to making the implementation of the plan successful. Using Girls Circle
participants who are finished with the program might be one way to do this. Using other places outside of schools like the Thurston County Food Bank or Haven House was also discussed as a way to market and recruit youth outside of the school settings. There was lots of interest and energy surrounding the idea of doing video stories as a part of the plan. Next Communication Subcommittee meeting is slated for Monday June 18th at 9:30 AM at TOGETHER!'s offices, all are welcome.

**Girls Circle Subcommittee Update**

Hillary Soens and Karmel Shields shared the newest updates on the Girls Circle program. Girl’s Circle is now in the second session of programming. (See attached program update summary sheet.) For next year the program implementation will change. Girls Circle will be a grade specific program either 6th or 7th grade depending on the school. Girls Circle will only be implemented in schools. The YWCA is currently working with Boy’s and Girl’s Club to continue offering Girls Circle at those sites but not as a part of the research. Girls Circle will not run during the summer next year, it will only run three sessions—fall, winter, and spring. Girls Circle will only serve girls who haven’t participated in the program before. The research design of the program is also changing to a more robust design. Currently the next focus of the work will be focusing on capacity building and sustainability for this program. As this group plans for the future, several members of the coalition shared that they hope to see this program expand in order to reach other girls also at risk. They would like to see this program extended to other venues in the future.

**2011-2016 Strategic Action Plan: Next Area of Focus**

Chris Hawkins explained about today’s discussion about having the Coalition consider their next area of focus. Last year as a part of the Coalition’s strategic planning process, we prioritized abuse and violence against women and girls as the number one priority of the Coalition. We also identified four other priorities for the Coalition: improving access to health services, improving the mental health of women and girls, preventing substance use and promoting active living and healthy eating, and addressing social determinants of preconception health. Of those other priorities three (improving access to health services, improving the mental health of women and girls, and preventing substance use and promoting active living and healthy eating) were prioritized as equal by the coalition last year. In the next two months between this meeting and our August meeting the coalition will convene a short-term subcommittee to explore ideas for what could be done in the next area of focus. This process will continue to follow the coalition criteria approved last year with a few small changes (see attached document).

Discussion of the coalition ensued. Several members mentioned the connection between mental health and substance use that can exist. Access to health services is an important area of focus that is currently being worked on in several different arenas as the Affordable Care Act begins to be implemented. Several members also voiced wanting to be able to know where the gaps are in the community in services. Important aspects that were mentioned in discussion around mental health services include: continuing in the
prevention/early intervention continuum, working on trauma informed communities, looking at mental health from a behavior health perspective was also mentioned as important. The group decided to focus next on Behavioral Health.

Coalition members that are interested in participating as a sub-committee member looking into interventions that can fit this were asked to sign up. They will be contacted by TCPHSS staff. This will be a short term commitment that hopes to bring options to the next coalition meeting in August 2012.

Meeting evaluations followed and the meeting was adjourned.