

## **IC 16-19-13**

### Chapter 13. Office of Women's Health

#### **IC 16-19-13-1**

##### **"Office" defined**

Sec. 1. As used in this chapter, "office" refers to the office of women's health established by this chapter.

*As added by P.L.52-1999, SEC.3.*

#### **IC 16-19-13-2**

##### **Establishment**

Sec. 2. The office of women's health is established within the state department.

*As added by P.L.52-1999, SEC.3.*

#### **IC 16-19-13-3**

##### **Purposes**

Sec. 3. The office is established for the following purposes:

(1) To educate and advocate for women's health by requesting that the state department, either on its own or in partnership with other entities, establish appropriate forums, programs, or initiatives designed to educate the public regarding women's health, with an emphasis on preventive health and healthy lifestyles.

(2) To assist the state health commissioner in identifying, coordinating, and establishing priorities for programs, services, and resources the state should provide for women's health issues and concerns relating to the reproductive, menopausal, and postmenopausal phases of a woman's life, with an emphasis on postmenopausal health.

(3) To serve as a clearinghouse and resource for information regarding women's health data, strategies, services, and programs that address women's health issues, including the following:

(A) Diseases that significantly impact women, including heart disease, cancer, and osteoporosis.

(B) Menopause.

(C) Mental health.

(D) Substance abuse.

(E) Sexually transmitted diseases.

(F) Sexual assault and domestic violence.

(4) To collect, classify, and analyze relevant research information and data conducted or compiled by:

(A) the state department; or

(B) other entities in collaboration with the state department; and to provide interested persons with information regarding the research results, except as prohibited by law.

(5) To develop and recommend funding and program activities for educating the public on women's health initiatives, including the following:

- (A) Health needs throughout a woman's life.
  - (B) Diseases that significantly affect women, including heart disease, cancer, and osteoporosis.
  - (C) Access to health care for women.
  - (D) Poverty and women's health.
  - (E) The leading causes of morbidity and mortality for women.
  - (F) Special health concerns of minority women.
- (6) To make recommendations to the state health commissioner regarding programs that address women's health issues for inclusion in the state department's biennial budget and strategic planning.
  - (7) To seek funding from private or governmental entities to carry out the purposes of this chapter.
  - (8) To prepare materials for publication and dissemination to the public on women's health.
  - (9) To conduct public educational forums in Indiana to raise public awareness and to educate citizens about women's health programs, issues, and services.
  - (10) To coordinate the activities and programs of the office with other entities that focus on women's health or women's issues, including the Indiana commission for women (IC 4-23-25-3).
  - (11) To represent the state health commissioner, upon request, before the general assembly and the Indiana commission for women established by IC 4-23-25-3.
  - (12) To provide an annual report to the governor, the legislative council, and the Indiana commission for women regarding the successes of the programs of the office, priorities and services needed for women's health in Indiana, and areas for improvement. A report provided under this subdivision to the legislative council must be in an electronic format under IC 5-14-6.

This section does not allow the director or any employees of the office to advocate, promote, refer to, or otherwise advance abortion or abortifacients.

*As added by P.L.52-1999, SEC.3. Amended by P.L.28-2004, SEC.135.*

#### **IC 16-19-13-4**

##### **Staff appointments**

Sec. 4. (a) The state health commissioner shall appoint persons to staff the office, including:

- (1) the director of the office; and
- (2) any other employees that the state health commissioner determines are necessary.

(b) The employees appointed under subsection (a)(2) shall report to the director. The director shall report to the state health commissioner.

(c) The director shall supervise the employees assigned to the office.

(d) The director shall oversee the administrative functions of the office.

*As added by P.L.52-1999, SEC.3.*

#### **IC 16-19-13-5**

##### **Advisory committee**

Sec. 5. (a) The state health commissioner shall appoint an advisory committee on women's health to assist in advising the director regarding the duties required under this chapter.

(b) The advisory committee is comprised of persons with an expertise in and a knowledge of women's health issues in Indiana.

(c) The state health commissioner shall:

- (1) determine the number of persons to serve on the advisory committee;
- (2) appoint a chairperson or co-chairpersons for the advisory committee; and
- (3) establish the policies and procedures under which the advisory committee operates.

*As added by P.L.52-1999, SEC.3.*

#### **IC 16-19-13-6**

##### **Sexual assault victims assistance fund**

Sec. 6. (a) As used in this section, "rape crisis center" means an organization that provides a full continuum of services, including hotlines, victim advocacy, and supportive services, from the onset of need for services through the completion of healing, to victims of sexual assault.

(b) The sexual assault victims assistance fund is established. The office shall administer the fund to provide financial assistance to rape crisis centers. Money in the fund must be distributed to a statewide nonprofit corporation whose primary purpose is pursuing the eradication of sexual violence in Indiana. The nonprofit corporation shall allocate money in the fund among the rape crisis centers. The fund consists of:

- (1) amounts transferred to the fund from sexual assault victims assistance fees collected under IC 33-37-5-23.
- (2) any appropriations to the fund from other sources;
- (3) grants, gifts, and donations intended for deposit in the fund; and
- (4) interest that accrues from money in the fund.

(c) The expenses of administering the fund shall be paid from money in the fund. The office shall designate not more than ten percent (10%) of the appropriation made each year to the nonprofit corporation for program administration.

(d) The treasurer of state shall invest the money in the fund not currently needed to meet the obligations of the fund in the same manner as other public money may be invested.

(e) Money in the fund at the end of a state fiscal year does not revert to the state general fund.

*As added by P.L.280-2001, SEC.13. Amended by P.L.1-2002,*

*SEC.72; P.L.98-2004, SEC.97.*