Minutes
Wisconsin Partnership Program
Lifecourse Initiative for Healthy Families
Evaluation Workgroup
March 9, 2011 1:30 - 3:30 pm
United Way of Greater Milwaukee
225 West Vine Street, Milwaukee WI

Present: Georgia Cameron; Mayia Corcoran (phone); Quinton Cotton; Murray Katcher; Angela Moore; Patrice Onheiber (phone); Samantha Perry, Angela Rohan; Pamela Smith; Julie Whelan Capell; Brianne Adams; Jessica Rice

Absent: Ron Cisler; Sheila DeForest; Marion Fass; Vivian Jackson; Courtenay Kessler; Sarah Martin, JaNay Sims, Trina Salm Ward

Staff and Consultants: Paul Moberg, Nancy Eberle; Cathy Frey, Lorraine Lathen

Guests: Kate Kvale, Marilyn Kilgore

1. Welcome, Introductions and Announcements
Paul Moberg called the meeting to order at 1:35 pm.

2. Review minutes from the February 9, 2011 meeting
The February 9, 2011 minutes were deferred to the next meeting.

3. Input on additions to PRAMS survey
Paul Moberg introduced the discussion on input to the PRAMS Phase 7 survey. PRAMS was developed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in 1987 as part of their initiative to reduce infant deaths and low-birth-weight babies. Thirty states participate in PRAMS and ask a core set of questions of all mothers so data can be compared. Each state may ask additional questions specific to their needs. PRAMS was designed to supplement Vital Records data by providing state-specific data on maternal behaviors and experiences not available from other sources. Because PRAMS uses standardized data collection methodology, data collected can be compared across states.

The overall purpose of PRAMS is to reduce infant morbidity and mortality by collecting high-quality data and using the information collected to improve the health of mothers and babies by influencing maternal and child health programs and policies.

Revisions to the PRAMS survey are conducted every four years. The questionnaire under consideration is the seventh version. The PRAMS Questionnaire consists of core questions, which are included in the surveys of all states taking part in PRAMS, and the state-specific questions, which differ according to each state's selected areas of need. Wisconsin has chosen to focus on health disparities.
The core questions cover such topics as:

- Insurance coverage;
- Contraception;
- Pregnancy intention;
- Perinatal substance use (alcohol and tobacco);
- Prenatal care;
- Psychosocial stressors;
- Complications of pregnancy and delivery;
- Sources and level of household income;
- Breastfeeding;
- HIV testing;

The Evaluation Workgroup members discussed and recommended a limited number of additional questions to the PRAMS Phase 7 Questionnaire. Members reviewed the questions based on alignment with the lifecourse model, evaluation needs within the 12-point plan and where PRAMS data could be most relevant.

4. Update on Implementation Phase RFP process
Lorraine Lathen and Cathy Frey reported that the LIHF RFP workgroup met on February 25, 2011 to review an initial draft of the LIHF RFP. The group will meet again in March and April before presenting a final version to the Steering Committee and the Oversight and Advisory Committee.

5. Evaluation Themes and Priorities
Paul Moberg distributed a draft document titled, “Summary of Evaluation Themes and Priorities—Implementation Phase” as an overview of key evaluation indicators based on the questions proposed by the Workgroup. The LIHF evaluation plan will include both process and outcome measures for the Collaboratives and individual LIHF funded initiatives. Longer-term Outcomes relate to:
- Improvements in African American infants’ survival and health
- Reductions in ethnic health disparities in birth outcomes
- Improved health status of AA women over the lifespan

6. Adjourn and next meeting
Moberg discussed next steps for the evaluation workgroup include the following activities:
- Recap of any work assignments
- Plans for next steps
- Future meeting dates & locations

The next meeting of the workgroup is Wednesday April 6, 2011 from 1:30 to 3:30 in Beloit.

The meeting adjourned at 3:30 pm. Recorder, Cathy Frey