Minutes
Wisconsin Partnership Program
Healthy Birth Outcomes LIHF Steering Committee
United Way of Greater Milwaukee
225 West Vine Street
Milwaukee, WI 53212-3951
Wednesday March 9, 2011 11:30 AM

Members Present: Phil Farrell (phone), Murray Katcher, Marilyn Kilgore, Katherine Marks, Stephen Ragatz, Georgia Cameron, Betty Stinson, Ron Cisler, Sheri Johnson

Members Absent: Tina Mason, Bill Solberg, Laurel Rice, Tito Izard

OAC Members: Cindy Haq, Christine Holmes

Staff: Eileen Smith, Cathy Frey, Lorraine Lathen

1. Welcome & review of agenda/ Approval of January 11, 2011 minutes

Katherine Marks welcomed the committee members and reviewed the agenda meeting materials.

Marks requested approval of the draft January 11, 2011 minutes. After a motion made by Cisler and seconded by Johnson, the minutes were approved with the following correction as requested by Marks:

4) a. Roles and Responsibilities of Steering Committee and Collaborative

Cathy Frey and Lorraine Lathen presented a summary document describing the roles and responsibilities of the Steering Committee and the four Collaboratives as the initiative transitions from planning to implementation. The purpose of the Steering Committee is to provide overall leadership and establish strategic direction for the initiative. The purpose of each collaborative is to act as ambassadors for the community action plan and facilitate a coordinated effort to achieve shared goals. Both groups serve as advocates for the Lifecourse model and Initiative. Members recommended the following additional roles for the LIHF Collaboratives:

- Execute community plan
- Educate the public, providers and professionals about issues that affect the African American community
- Build consensus within each community

2. Announcements

Program Officer Position Eileen Smith reported on the Program Officer recruitment. WPP staff are reviewing applications and will conduct interviews in April. The anticipated start date is late spring or summer. The Program Officer will provide oversight and management for LIHF grantees and assist the Senior Program Leader during the transition from planning to implementation.
Milwaukee Journal Sentinel Coverage Farrell reported that the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel (MJS) is conducting a yearlong series on the death of children before their first birthday in 2011 titled, “Empty Cradles”. The series will examine the problem and point to solutions, with a focus on research efforts needed to define factors that lead to infant mortality, including the role of stress. Farrell is writing an editorial on the series, recommend national experts in the field, provide information on the epidemiology of the problem, and data analysis. Members of the Milwaukee LIHF Collaborative and Lorraine Lathen are also providing MJS interviews.

Steering Committee Nominations Lorraine Lathen reported on the Steering Committee membership, renewed terms, the nomination process, and the need to replace vacancies. All current members were invited to continue to serve on the Steering Committee and provide additional nominations to Lorraine Lathen by the May 11 meeting.

DHS data sets/FIMR Report Staff distributed a copy of the 2010 City of Milwaukee Fetal Infant Mortality Review (FIMR) Report: “Understanding and Preventing Infant Death and Stillbirth in Milwaukee”. The report summarizes what is known about factors that contribute to Milwaukee’s high number of stillbirths and infant deaths in an effort to reduce infant mortality, and eliminate the racial and ethnic disparity in infant mortality. Through FIMR’s case review process, an analysis is done on all stillbirths and all infants who die before their first birthday. The report seeks to inform and encourage new and improved programs and policies to prevent infant deaths and stillbirths in the community. The FIMR case review team identified eleven recommendations to reduce infant death, noting that it will require the establishment of private and public partnerships to affect change and encourage action.

Conflict of Interest forms Cathy Frey redistributed the revised conflict of interest policy approved by the OAC. Frey reported that the Steering Committee members must agree to abide by the policy and sign the conflict of interest questionnaire on an annual basis.

March 17, 2011 Statewide Advisory Committee Agenda WPP staff invited members to attend the March 17, 2011 Statewide Advisory Committee on Eliminating Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Birth Outcomes. The meeting objectives are to provide up-to-date information on public and private programs/funding at the federal, state, and local level, present Wisconsin data on pregnant women and birth outcomes and to share evidence-based and best practices to improve socioeconomic and health-related indicators in high-risk communities.

3. LIHF Project/Grantee Updates

Evaluation Workgroup Paul Moberg reported that the Evaluation Workgroup met on January 11 and February 9, 2011 and will continue to meet monthly. The workgroup is making significant progress towards a collaboratively developed evaluation plan to present to the Steering Committee and the OAC. The four project coordinators are actively involved. The workgroup is currently working on revising a draft program logic model, evaluation questions that workgroup members generated and the community needs assessment tool. The workgroup is also working with the Wisconsin Division of Public Health to expand the Prenatal Risk Assessment Monitoring System (PRAMS) in the four LIHF communities. The Wisconsin PRAMS is a CDC surveillance system to reduce infant mortality and low
Birth weight. The data is obtained directly from mothers and supplements vital records and hospital data by providing Wisconsin specific information on maternal behaviors to be used for planning and assessing perinatal health programs. The goal of the PRAMS is to improve the health of mothers and infants by reducing adverse outcomes such as low birth weight, infant mortality and morbidity, and maternal morbidity.

Communication and Public Awareness Lorraine Lathen reported on the Communications and Public Awareness workgroup. The workgroup will meet on March 30 to focus on a modest campaign to promote the participation in the PRAMS survey in the four local communities. The WPP is supporting media spokesperson training for LIHF collaborative members on March 19 in Milwaukee.

Fund Development Phil Farrell reported that the WPP continues to work on a LIHF funding strategy with an emphasis on Milwaukee that will include the UW Foundation and other funding partners. This will be extended to the other three communities. All local fund development efforts will be supported in a coordinated fashion. A workgroup of Steering Committee members and others will be involved in a more in-depth discussion of these efforts including partnerships with donors and foundations at a future meeting.

Racine Midterm Report-Out Samantha Perry, Project Manager for the Racine Lifecourse Initiative for Healthy Families provided a midterm progress report presentation.

Kenosha Midterm Report-Out Pamela Smith, Project Coordinator for Kenosha Lifecourse Initiative for Healthy Families provided a midterm progress report presentation.

Milwaukee and Beloit will provide midterm reports at the May 11 Steering Committee meeting. Marks requested that the written interim progress reports be sent in advance.

4. RFP Implementation Status

Frey and Lathen provided a draft timeline for the development of the implementation phase Request for Partnerships (RFP). A working group met on February 25 to provide input into the RFP. The group will report to the Steering Committee meetings on May 11, 2011.

5. Open Forum

Marks opened the meeting to guests and members for comments. None reported.

6. Adjourn

Marks adjourned the meeting at 1:30 pm. The next meeting of the Steering Committee will be held on Wednesday, May 11, 2011 at 11:30 am at the United Way of Greater Milwaukee.

Recorder, Cathy Frey