Meeting Minutes  
Wisconsin Partnership Program  
Lifecourse Initiative for Healthy Families Steering Committee  
United Way of Greater Milwaukee  
225 West Vine Street Milwaukee, WI 53212  
Wednesday, September 12, 2012 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Members present: Fritz Broekhuizen, Georgia Cameron, Ron Cisler, Phil Farrell (co-chair), Mark Huber, Tito Izard, Cheryl Jackson (by telephone) Sheri Johnson, Murray Katcher, Veronica Lawson Gunn, Katherine Marks (co-chair), Betty Stinson, Jack Waters and Lora Wiggins

Members Absent: Deborah Embry, Cindy Haq, James Ivy and Stephen Ragatz

Staff: Quinton Cotton, Cathy Frey and Eileen Smith

Invited Guests: Nancy Eberle, Paul Moberg and Patrice Onheiber (by telephone)

Guests: Tonya Evans, Chris Holmes, Paula Penebaker and Samantha Perry

1. Welcome and review of agenda

Farrell called the meeting to order at 11:30 am.

2. Decision on July 11, 2012 meeting minutes

After a motion made by Waters and seconded by Cisler, the meeting minutes were approved. Katcher noted that efforts were being made to increase pre-natal regionalization as part of Medicaid waivers for preconception health rather than pre-natal regulation as currently listed on page two of the meeting minutes.

3. LIHF Collaborative Update

Cotton provided a summary of the current activities of LIHF collaboratives, which included strengthening project work plans, refining their governance models and planning events for National Infant Mortality Awareness Month.

Farrell noted that the Milwaukee LIHF Collaborative has experienced some challenges with the transition from planning to implementation and that discussions were underway with representatives from the Milwaukee community to discuss next steps. Milwaukee representatives on the Steering Committee encouraged the WPP staff to build on successes of the planning phase to inform next steps.

4. Discussion on Request for Partnerships for Development and Implementation Project Grants

Farrell reported that a Review Team comprised of OAC and LIHF Steering Committee members met on August 30, 2012 to discuss LIHF Notices of Intent. There was consensus among the team to recommend to the OAC that all preliminary applications be invited to submit a full application. Farrell further explained the additional emphasis was being placed on providing technical assistance to applicants to ensure that strong proposals were submitted and assured committee members that the full application review process would identify meritorious application submissions.
Waters commented on the balance of types of interventions proposed, noting that no applications were submitted for medical homes. It was pointed out that additional funding cycles would allow for future opportunities to apply for funds, especially for areas where there are a low number of applications submitted.

Cotton provided an overview of plans to provide technical assistance to LIHF project grant applicants. In the month of October, WPP staff is making available individualized technical assistance sessions. The sessions include details about the Lifecourse Initiative, information on how project grant applicants can connect with a LIHF Collaborative, identification of an Academic Partner, evaluation assistance and budget support. Additional technical assistance through webinars and one-on-one support continue to be provided to applicants.

With respect to Academic Partners, Cotton reported that WPP Staff have been working over the last year to develop a list of faculty or academic staff who are interested in serving as Academic Partners (for example, meeting with the faculty at the Zilber School of Public Health and the UW-Madison Institute for Research and Poverty). Committee members expressed some concern about the timeliness of academic partners connecting with project grant applicants. The Committee requested that WPP Staff share a list of potential Academic Partners. Committee members were also interested in exploring ways in which content experts could support the work of project grant applicants.

Additional comments on the Request for Partnerships are summarized below.

- Steering Committee members interested in serving as an expert reviewer were asked to follow up with the LIHF Program Officer.
- Committee members had questions about WPP’s Conflict of Interest Policy. It was noted that WPP Staff pay careful attention at multiple phases of the review process to identify and address conflicts among Committee members and expert reviewers.
- With the transitions in Milwaukee, the process for project grant applicants to the collaborative must be more closely examined.
- It was noted that a number of applications included hospital systems and if it was appropriate for WPP funds to support hospital activities. There was some discussion on the need for hospital systems to coordinate their activities with Medicaid and Health Maintenance Organizations (HMOs) to enhance the availability and coordination of services.

5. Evaluation Workgroup Update

Paul Moberg provided an update to the Committee on recent evaluation activities, including a meeting of the Evaluation Workgroup on July 20th to re-orient the group for the implementation phase and to review tools and methods for the Collaboratives to use in evaluating their progress. Moberg noted that Collaborative staff were pilot testing a standardized activity log to be used to document activities and participation in meetings and events, and that the evaluation consultants were revising an existing survey for the Collaboratives to use to assess their functioning and development.

6. Expansion of Fetal and Infant Mortality and Child Death Review

Abby Collier from the Children’s Health Alliance and Karen Michalski from the City of Milwaukee Health Department gave a presentation on their WPP-funded grant to expand and integrate the Fetal Infant Mortality Review in the four LIHF communities. Please see the attached presentation.
7. State/Federal Maternal and Child Health Update

Katcher provided an update on state and federal maternal child health activities.

- Region V was added to national infant mortality prevention efforts because the region has largest disparity in infant mortality among black and white infant deaths. One major priority of Region V is the regionalization of perinatal care.
- Healthy Start is being examined nationally. New funding opportunities will become available and the renewal of the Milwaukee application will be through a competitive process.
- Planning activities to expand the Best Baby Zone (BBZ) Initiative in four cities (Cincinnati, Milwaukee, New Orleans and Oakland) are currently underway. Milwaukee opted to learn from the work of other sites during the first year and begin implementation in the second year. A lead agency in Milwaukee to coordinate the work has not yet been identified.

8. Announcements and Member Updates

The Medical College of Wisconsin and the UW School of Medicine and Public Health are sponsoring a Joint Conference to highlight their investments in the areas of research, education and public health. Steering Committee members are invited to attend this conference. The Lifecourse Initiative will be featured as part of the conference.

9. Open Forum

Marks opened to meeting for comments. No remarks were provided.

10. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 1:30 pm. The next meeting will be on November 7, 2012 at Gateway Technical College in Racine, WI.

Recorder, Quinton Cotton