Meeting Minutes  
Wisconsin Partnership Program  
Lifecourse Initiative for Healthy Families Steering Committee  
Gateway Technical College, Racine Building Room 102  
1001 South Main Street Racine, WI 53403  
Wednesday November 7, 2012  11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Members present: Fritz Broekhuizen, Georgia Cameron, Ron Cisler, Deborah Embry, Phil Farrell (co-chair), Mark Huber, Cindy Haq (by telephone), James Ivy, Tito Izard, Cheryl Jackson, Sheri Johnson, Murray Katcher, Katherine Marks (co-chair), Stephen Ragatz, Betty Stinson and Jack Waters

Members Absent: Veronica Lawson Gunn and Lora Wiggins

Staff: Quinton Cotton and Eileen Smith

Invited Guests: Nancy Eberle, Mayor John Dickert, Don Grey, Police Chief Art Howell, County Executive Jim Ladwig and Paul Moberg

Guests: Angela Moore, Patrice Onheiber (by telephone), Samantha Perry and Sharon Schulz

1. Welcome by Local Host

Farrell called the meeting to order at 11:35 am. Mayor John Dickert, County Executive Jim Ladwig and Police Chief Art Howell provided opening remarks and welcome committee members to Racine, Wisconsin. Members introduced themselves.

2. Review of Meeting Agenda

Farrell provided an overview of agenda.

3. Decision on September 12, 2012 meeting minutes

After a motion made by Cisler and seconded by Cameron, the meeting minutes were approved.

4. Meeting Schedule for 2013

Farrell noted that the role of the committee was advisory in nature and that meetings provided a forum for discussions about the Initiative. The committee will continue to alternate meetings between the four targeted communities.

5. Update on WPP Fund Development Activities

Don Grey, a former executive at the UW Foundation, provided an overview of his background and noted that the Wisconsin Partnership Program hired him as a consultant to explore the feasibility of the WPP/OAC to pursue plans to raise additional dollars for the Lifecourse Initiative. Grey’s assessment would include information on potential fundraising goals and other information. The assessment will be complete in May 2013 and findings will be shared with the Committee.
6. LIHF Collaborative Update

Cotton shared that each LIHF Collaborative continue their efforts to build public awareness about the issue of infant mortality and connect with project grants applicants to ensure their projects align with recommendations of Community Action Plans. LIHF Collaboratives also participated in the UW SMPH and MCW Joint Conference and contributed to the discussion by sharing lessons learned during the planning phase. Representatives from each collaborative discussed the focus of their work over the next two years and provided an update on activities (Birthday Party, Children’s Parade, Gift Bag Give-A-Way, etc.) for National Infant Mortality Awareness Month.

Smith provided an update on the Milwaukee LIHF Collaborative, noting that there have been challenges related to staffing, leadership, infrastructure and communication.

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

Cotton noted that efforts have been made to match community organization with Academic Partners, including developing UW and faculty resource lists and holding meetings with potential UW faculty partners. In the month of October, WPP staff held technical assistance sessions in the four LIHF communities. Cotton noted that 25 applicants received individualized TA. In general, it was noted that applicants found technical assistance helpful, particularly assistance with logic models and the development of realistic scopes of work for their projects. Cotton also reported that of the 33 proposals submitted, two applicants withdrew.

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Cotton discussed the three phase review process for full applications: (1) content review by WPP staff; (2) expert panel review including LIHF Steering Committee and LIHF Collaborative members, and; (3) OAC review. The expert panel reviews will take place in mid-December to January 31, 2013 with the OAC making decisions on awards on February 20, 2013.

8. Evaluation Workgroup Update

Moberg provided an update to the Committee on recent evaluation activities, noting 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. Cisler asked how the LIHF evaluation might be capturing other efforts underway in communities that also advance the goals and priorities of the Lifecourse Initiative. Moberg responded by indicating that project staff are collecting information on other activities they are involved with through their partners as a way of capturing efforts more broadly rather than activities solely of the LIHF Collaboratives.
9. State/Federal Maternal and Child Health Update

Katcher noted that the federal government has public health service regions. Region 5, which includes Wisconsin, has the greatest black-white disparities in birth outcome. The Collaborative Improvement & Innovation Network to Reduce Infant Mortality (COIN) sponsored by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) will convene a meeting in Chicago to discuss birth outcomes.

Katcher also provided an update on recent infant mortality statistics. See attachment.

10. Announcements and Member Updates

Cotton provided additional information on the Joint Conference and noted that the State Advisory Committee and Wisconsin Healthiest Women Initiative would be holding a meeting on November 16, 2012.

11. Open Forum

There were no comments made by meeting attendees.

12. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 1:30 pm.

Recorder, Quinton Cotton