Members present: Georgia Cameron, Ron Cisler (phone), Deborah Embry, Phil Farrell (co-chair), Cindy Haq (phone), Cheryl Jackson, Tito Izard, Sheri Johnson (phone), Murray Katcher, Veronica Lawson Gunn, Katherine Marks (co-chair), Betty Stinson and Lora Wiggins

Members Absent: Fritz Broekhuizen, Mark Huber, James Ivy, Steve Ragatz and Jack Waters

Staff and Consultants: Quinton Cotton, Nancy Eberle, Cathy Frey, Mary Jo Knobloch, Lorraine Lathen, and Paul Moberg

Guests: Jim Addison, Kate Baldwin, Bonnie Broker, Karen Dotson, David Frazer, Don Grey, Lisa Jackson, Cynthia Johnson, Patricia McManus, Angela Moore, Patrice Onheiber, Samantha Perry, Gwen Perry-Brye, Angela Rohan and Pamela Smith

1. Welcome and Review of Meeting Agenda
Farrell called the meeting to order at 11:45 am. Cynthia Johnson, Director and Health Officer of the Kenosha County Division of Health, welcomed the committee to the meeting in Kenosha.

Farrell asked members and guests to introduce themselves then reviewed the meeting agenda and meeting materials.

2. Decision on January 9, 2013 meeting minutes
After a motion made by Gunn and seconded by Embry, the January 9, 2013 meeting minutes were unanimously approved.

3. LIHF Collaborative Update
Cotton provided an overview of LIHF Collaborative goals and activities in the four key focus areas of leadership, public awareness, community change and leveraged resources. Cotton reported that each collaborative continues to make progress on building public awareness on infant mortality. He also described the process for engaging the recently funded LIHF project grants with the local Collaboratives.

Cotton then asked representatives from Beloit, Kenosha and Racine to report on local activities in the four key focus areas.

Beloit - Angela Moore introduced new staff and described the following three community change priorities and related activities for the Beloit LIHF Collaborative:

- Support service providers by developing a Cultural Competency Assessment Tool
- Assist service providers in adopting a Cultural Competency Creed – 14 agencies participated in training sessions.
- Assess efforts to improve the delivery of services to African Americans in Beloit.
Moore also reported on the local press release with the Beloit Daily News and a forthcoming meeting with the editorial board with regard to the Beloit LIHF project grants.

**Kenosha** – Pam Smith described the following three community change priorities and related activities for the Kenosha LIHF Collaborative:

- Assess efficiency of state-contracted transportation services and policies for Medicaid population – Met with Medicaid transportation manager.
- Convene listening sessions with women, expectant mothers and local transit stakeholders.
- Design and implement advocacy strategies to improve transit services for the Medicaid population.

Smith also reported on the various activities underway related to public awareness and press releases highlighting the recently funded LIHF project grants in Kenosha. She is currently scheduling meetings with the grantees to introduce representatives to the work of Kenosha LIHF.

**Racine** – Samantha Perry introduced new staff member and described the following four priorities and related activities for the Racine LIHF Collaborative:

- Convene organizations that provide home visiting services.
- Analyze the home visiting network in Racine to identify gaps and potential collaborations.
- Develop and implement plan to enhance home visiting services in Racine.
- Increase visibility of collaborative leadership, especially in African American Community.

Perry also reported on new Collaborative members, including community ambassadors, the Racine LIHF project grant partners and the business community. Racine is considering new strategies to support greater father involvement with existing programs.

Cotton introduced Lorraine Lathen who described her role as a consultant to the Wisconsin Partnership Program (WPP) to support and make recommendations regarding the Milwaukee LIHF. Lathen has assembled a transition team of 20 members to identify a process to transition Milwaukee from planning to implementation. The team will actively communicate and raise awareness on the team’s progress. Lathen reminded members of the scope of work in the following four areas:

- Develop options and a process for identifying and selecting an anchor or backbone agency, per the stated guidelines in the LIHF RFP, dated January 25th.
- Develop recommendations to the OAC for leadership, staffing, financial resources, infrastructure and capacity building needs for a Milwaukee LIHF Collaborative.
- Make recommendations to the OAC on how the Milwaukee LIHF Collaborative will relate/interact with the funded project grants.
- Provide bi-monthly written and oral reports to the LIHF Steering Committee and OAC.

The transition team will meet semi-monthly and present draft recommendations at the May 8, 2013 Steering Committee meeting. Lathen also presented the eight-part Milwaukee Courier Series “Gone too Soon” along with a proposal to develop 5-7 digital stories that will be disseminated through emails.

Georgia Cameron suggested that the transition team stay focused on what is needed and emphasize more detail on the workplan so that a new backbone agency could hit the ground running.
4. OAC Decision on Request for Partnerships for Development and Implementation Project Grants
Farrell announced that the Oversight and Advisory Committee (OAC) met on February 27, 2013 to review and discuss the applications for LIHF project grants. He noted that OAC considered the special situation in Milwaukee with regard to the Collaborative transition period. Farrell stated the Milwaukee proposals had excellent academic partners and that the proposals under review scored well. He then read the following statement from OAC chair Pat Remington regarding the decision to fund Milwaukee project grants:

_The Oversight and Advisory Committee voted to approve the grants while the transition team is moving towards identifying a lead or ‘backbone’ agency. The committee wants to keep activity in Milwaukee moving forward, and the projects that were approved are in line with the community plan. There is typically a few months’ lead time once grants are given before projects are up and running, and in this instance that will coincide very closely with the date by which the Milwaukee Collaborative will be reconstituted. Letting the two processes run in parallel will mean the funded projects can be implemented sooner._

Marks congratulated the applicants for their successful outcome and thanked all the organizations that applied.

Cotton noted that OAC reviewed and awarded $3.4 million to 6 development and 14 implementation proposals but would defer making a funding decision on 6 applications that required further clarification and review. The OAC will consider those proposals at the April 17, 2013 meeting. There was very positive coverage by state and local media on the awarded project grants. Cotton distributed copies of the project grant abstracts and provided a detailed overview of the pre-award review and post-award process (see attachment).

5. Evaluation Workgroup Update
Moberg provided an update to the Committee on recent evaluation activities, noting that the evaluation has three levels that include Collaboratives, project grants and the overall initiative. The evaluation consultants have piloted a standardized activity log used to document activities and participation in Collaborative events, and created a self-assessment survey to assess their functioning and development. Evaluation consultants are also creating a common set of indicators for funded project grants that will capture the target population, fidelity to the intervention or model and other process measures as a way to aggregate results that WPP can use as a learning tool.

6. State/Federal Maternal and Child Health Update
Georgia Cameron provided an update on the Title V grant through the Wisconsin Division of Public Health and the Collaborative Improvement & Innovation Network (COIN) to Reduce Infant Mortality, a federal public health region effort designed to find out what works to reduce infant mortality and scale up the best interventions to the national level. Wisconsin has assembled a team that will meet over 12 to 18 months. From the LIHF Steering Committee, representatives include Georgia Cameron, Murray Katcher, Lora Wiggins and Patrice Onheiber. She also reported that Dr. Murray Katcher was awarded the Recognition of Distinction for excellence in state Maternal & Child Health Leadership at the annual AMCHP Conference.
7. **Announcements and member Updates**
Farrell invited steering committee members to participate in the core leadership team and to contact him if they are interested.

8. **Open Forum**
Marks opened the meeting to guests who had questions or comments. Brief responses and questions came from Pat McManus, Samantha Perry and Bonnie Broker.

9. **Adjournment**
The next meeting will be held on May 8, 2013 from 11:30 am – 1:30 pm at the United Way of Greater Milwaukee, 225 West Vine Street; Milwaukee, WI 53212.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

Recorder, Cathy Frey