Minutes

Wisconsin Partnership Program
Reducing Health Disparities in Birth Outcomes Steering Committee
Wednesday March 11, 2009
5:00 to 8:00 PM
YWCA of Greater Milwaukee
1915 N Dr Martin Luther King, Milwaukee, WI 53212

Members Present: Georgia Cameron, Phil Farrell (phone), C.C. Henderson, Tito Izard, Sheri Johnson, Murray Katcher, Marilyn Kilgore (phone), Lorraine Lathen, Katherine Marks, Tina Mason, Gwendolyn Perry-Brye, Laurel Rice, Bill Solberg, Betty Stinson

Members Absent: Ron Cisler, Stephen Ragatz

Staff: Eileen Smith, Cathy Frey, Chris Blakey

Guests: Trina Salm Ward, Patrice Onheiber, Patricia McManus, Sarah Esmond, Susan Lampert-Smith, Tiffany Gilmore, Susan Lloyd, Cathy Edwards, Angela Rohan

Lathen called the meeting to order at 5:10 pm.

1. Welcome & review of agenda/ meeting materials

Lorrain Lathen welcomed the committee members and reviewed the agenda, materials and meeting outcomes.

2. Review and approval of January 14, 2009 and February 11, 2009 minutes

Lathen requested approval of the draft January 14, 2009 and February 11, 2009 minutes. A correction was noted that Robert Harris and Curtis Marshall were present as guests at the February 11, 2009 meeting. Minutes were approved as presented with the correction.

3. Announcements and updates

Farrell discussed a potential opportunity to work with the UW Foundation in presenting the initiative at an upcoming Milwaukee event.

Frey presented a “Save the Date” flyer for the April 28, 2009 Statewide Advisory Committee meeting on Reducing Health Disparities in Birth Outcomes.

Frey discussed recent meetings with DHS Secretary Karen Timberlake and Representative Sandy Pasch on the work of the Steering Committee.

Susan Lambert Smith discussed the media update and outcome of UW press release in February
2009. Members shared additional information on local media activity.

Eileen Smith reported on the progress for the recruitment of the program officer. The program officer recruitment resulted in over thirty applications to date. WPP staff are currently reviewing the applications and will conduct initial interviews of the finalists. Final interviews and a hiring decision will be made by Eileen Smith, Director with input from co-chairs Phil Farrell and Lorraine Lathen.

4. Discussion of agenda - Open forums

Lathen noted that future agendas will include an ongoing agenda item entitled, “open forum”. The open forum will provide guests with an opportunity to address the committee and provide input and feedback on the initiatives and the activities of the Steering Committee.

5. Presentation: The Zilber Neighborhood Initiative- Building on the Lessons of Comprehensive Community Development

Dr. Susan Lloyd, presented information on The Zilber Neighborhood Initiative, a long-term initiative of the Zilber Family Foundation to support comprehensive community development in 10 Milwaukee neighborhoods. The purpose for the initiative is threefold:

1. To create communities of choice and connection: neighborhoods that are good places for people to live, learn, and work.

2. To increase the well-being of low-income Milwaukeeans: families are able to meet basic needs, obtain education and employment, and enjoy economic security, and


The aim of the initiative is to providing long-term flexible support, so that efforts can be applied to the needs and unique characteristics of individual neighborhoods through quality-of-life plans.

6. Small Group Discussion Direction

To accomplish the proposed Steering Committee timeline, three work groups agreed to meet over several months and focus on three major goals. Frey distributed the small workgroup assignments as follows:

- Request for Application (RFA) – This work group will develop a RFA for community capacity building planning grants apply the life-course model.
- Public Awareness Campaign – This work group will develop social marking strategies to raise awareness of health disparities in birth outcomes to build grassroots support for the funding initiative.
• Engaging funding partners – This work group will identify and secure funding partner support for the initiative.

Lathen provided the leading questions for the discussion.

7. Small Group reporting and discussion

Each workgroup reported on the outcome of the breakout discussion, focusing on the goals, and next steps for each workgroup. Staff will present notes from those discussions at the April 2009 Steering Committee meeting.

8. Lathen and Farrell requested input on agenda topics for next meeting. None noted, Lathen then adjourned the meeting at 7:55pm.

Recorder, Cathy Frey