Minutes

Wisconsin Partnership Program
Reducing Health Disparities in Birth Outcomes
Steering Committee
Wednesday, April 14, 2010 11:30 AM

Members Present: Georgia Cameron, Marilyn Kilgore, Katherine Marks, Ron Cisler, Phil Farrell, C.C. Henderson, Tito Izard, Sheri Johnson

Members Absent: Murray Katcher, Tina Mason, Gwendolyn M. Perry-Byre, Stephen Ragatz, Betty Stinson, Laurel Rice, Bill Solberg

Staff: Cathy Frey, Lorraine Lathen, Eileen Smith

OAC members Present: Christine Holmes

Guests: Trina Salm Ward, Rashonda Jones, Anne Marsh, Patrice Onheiber, Patricia McManus

1. Welcome & review of agenda/ meeting materials

Farrell welcomed the committee members and reviewed the agenda meeting materials.

Review and approval of February 10, 2010 Minutes

Farrell requested approval of the draft February 10, 2010 minutes. Minutes were approved as presented.

2. Announcements and updates

MHS GE Award: Mr. Henderson announced that the GE Foundation and the GE Corporate Diversity Council announced grants totaling $1 million to four Milwaukee community healthcare centers to expand access to primary care for uninsured and underserved populations in the metropolitan area. The MLK Heritage Health Center, the Isaac Coggs Heritage Health Center, the Chavez Health Center, and the Parkway Health Center each received $250,000 over two years.

Children’s Zone study Tour: Members reported on the recent trip to the Harlem Children’s Zone in New York City. In an effort to rebuild the community by helping children succeed, children in a 100 block area in Central Harlem are surrounded by college-oriented peers and supportive adults. The program starts with a Baby College for children ages 0-3 and the pipeline goes on to include best-practice programs for children of every age through college.
James Collins visit-Racine April 21: On April 21, 2010, Dr. James Collins will speak on the Impact of Racial Discrimination and Acculturation on Birth Outcomes. The Johnson Foundation will host the meeting for participants from diverse sectors and Steering Committee members were encouraged to attend.

Meeting with medical Community- Beloit April 28: On April 28, 2010, Dr. Farrell will present to Beloit’s medical community on the Life-course Perspective, Infant Mortality and the LIHF Project. Members of the Beloit LIHF Coalition will also attend the presentation.

AMCHP Conference: (Lorraine)

Evaluation Meeting: The LIHF Evaluation Workgroup will meet after the April 2010 Steering Committee meeting. The workgroup will begin a preliminary discussion on the rationale and plans for evaluating the activities of the Lifecourse Initiative for Healthy Families (LIHF) during the Community Action Planning phase. In addition, to set the stage for ongoing outcome evaluation of the initiative during the Implementation and Evaluation phase. Farrell emphasized the need for a systematic detailed description of the baseline conditions in each of the four communities. The purpose of the evaluation is:

- To assess performance measures and progress towards goals
- To help understand how the program is working
- To measure the impact of financial and non-financial investments

Convening Agency Meetings: Lathen provided an overview of the planned convening agency monthly meetings. Monthly telephone conference calls for the convening agencies may be suspended for the summer to allow for site specific technical support and accommodate summer vacations.

3. OAC’s Decision on LIHF Proposals

Farrell and Marks provided an overview of OAC’s decision and review of the following four Community Action Planning Grant proposals in March 2010:

- Racine CollaborativeLifeCourse Initiative for Healthy Families
- Kenosha LifeCourse Initiative for Healthy Families
- Milwaukee LifeCourse Initiative for Healthy Families
- Pathways to Healthier African-American Families in Beloit

Overall, the OAC was very impressed with the efforts of each applicant in response to the LIHF RFP. After a thorough presentation by Loraine on the reviewer's extensive comments and recommendations, the OAC made a decision to either approve or delay funding. A funding delay only signifies that further revisions to the proposals are necessary.
In March, the OAC voted to fund the Racine Collaborative. The OAC also voted to delay funding the Kenosha, Milwaukee and Beloit applications. Although the OAC considered these proposals to be very good overall, the OAC asked each applicant to resubmit a revised application in response to specific concerns and recommendations raised by the OAC. In addition to Lorraine’s technical assistance, Farrel and Marks offered to meet with each applicant to explain OAC’s recommendations and provide further guidance. The OAC will review these proposals at future meetings. Lathen provided a detailed description of the strengths and weakness of each proposal based on the external reviewer comments.

Members commented on the review process and need for continued staff training and technical assistance, especially in community engagement, the planning process, and a greater emphasis on broad stakeholder involvement.

4. **Open Forum** – Guests Salm-Ward commented on the need for strong community engagement and Mc Manus for improved communication between coalition leadership, members and convening agencies.

5. **Conflict of Interest** – Due to time restriction, this agenda item was postponed for a future meeting.

6. **Communications and Media Plan** – Lathen reviewed the on-going development of a communication and media plan, describing specific strategies and goals with a timeline for implementation. She emphasized the importance of a consistent public message. The communications and media plan discussion will continue at the next Steering Committee meeting.

7. **Adjourn**

Farrell adjourned the meeting at 1:30 pm.

Recorder, Cathy Frey