Minutes
Wisconsin Partnership Program
Healthy Birth Outcomes
LIHF Steering Committee
Wednesday August 11, 2010 11:30 AM

Members Present: Georgia Cameron, Ron Cisler, Phil Farrell, C.C. Henderson, Tito Izard, Marilyn Kilgore (phone), Katherine Marks, Laurel Rice (phone), Betty Stinson (phone)

Members Absent: Murray Katcher, Tina Mason, Stephen Ragatz, Sheri Johnson, Bill Solberg

Staff: Eileen Smith, Cathy Frey (phone), Lorraine Lathen,

Guests: Mark Lefebvre, Beth Wells, Nancy Eberle, Paul Moberg, Patrice Onheiber,

1. Welcome & review of agenda/ Approval of June 9, 2010 minutes

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

Farrell requested approval of the draft June 9, 2010 minutes. After a motion made by Cameron and seconded by Marks, the minutes were approved as presented.

2. Announcements and updates

Faculty engagement
Farrell met with UW SMPH faculty leaders and department chairs in July to discuss existing school and departmental resources and the potential for faculty engagement with LIHF. In addition to senior leadership, Farrell reported that the project also must build a critical mass of faculty partners to work with community organizations during the implementation phase. Farrell stated that faculty might be involved in conducting research, improving clinical services in community settings, consultation for specific areas such as behavioral health, program planning and evaluation, and the engagement of medical student and resident training. A senior faculty leader could serve as a central point of contact for technical assistance in identifying academic partners and researchers, provide access to federal or state funding, and develop infrastructure for maternal and child health. At this meeting, the leaders made a decision to move forward with a proposal for a senior faculty member in maternal and child health faculty. Farrell suggested a need to strengthen the relationship with UW-Milwaukee, School of Public Health. The Center for Urban Population Health will also play a central role.

Fund development
Farrell reported that the WPP continues to work on a LIHF funding strategy that will include the UW Foundation and other funding partners. The Steering Committee will be involved in a more in-depth discussion of these efforts including partnerships with donors and foundations at a future meeting. The WPP considers this a high priority.

Farrell introduced Mark Lefebvre, Vice President for Health & Life Sciences at the UW Foundation to discuss LIHF’s fund development goals. The UW Foundation has established an account for LIHF, where
donors can deposit gifts in interest-bearing accounts. A campaign to raise additional funds will involve all four communities. Farrell stated that identifying funding partners could not begin until the conclusion of planning phase, after which WPP would develop a case statement that describes the projects that will be underway.

Lefebvre reported that when the UW Foundation established the WPP endowment there would be an expected leveraging effect with other funding partners. Lefebvre stated that the UW Foundation has decades of experience with funding partners in the four LIHF communities. Milwaukee funders in particular are enthusiastic partners, but prefer that funds stay in Milwaukee to have an effect. Lefebvre concluded that the UW Foundation is eager to work with the Steering Committee and that the time for consortium philanthropy is here. Beth Wells and Maureen Demskey from the UW Foundation will provide assistance with these fundraising efforts going forward.

**Phase 2 implementation**
Farrell reminded members that planning is underway for the implementation phase and that this will be a major agenda item for a future meeting.

### 3. Conflict of Interest

Smith reported that the conflict of interest policies are currently under review as result of Legislative Audit Bureau audit. The review includes a definition of conflicts of interest, the procedure for handling conflicts, disclosure and voting. Staff will present the revised Steering Committee policy at a future meeting after approval by the OAC.

### 4. LIHF Project/Grantees Updates

#### June 28 Grantees Meeting

Marks and Lathen provided an overview of the June 28 LIHF all-site grantee meeting at the Wingspread Conference Center in Racine. Members of each local collaborative and convening agency were invited along with WPP staff and Steering Committee members. The purpose of the meeting was to orient participants to the grant requirements and expectations, and begin to promote a shared vision and learning environment. All four sites were represented; participants heard an update on the activities of each site. This was the first of several training meetings that WPP will host during the planning phase. Meetings may include national experts and dialog among the four grantees and their respective coalition members.

#### LIHF site updates

Lathen distributed four organizational charts and provided an update for each convening agency and their representative collation, including an overview of progress on their planning activities and efforts to engage and promote community participation. Marks commented that she would like to see more consistency among the organizational charts.

- Kenosha-Black Health Coalition of Kenosha is in the process of hiring two positions and has been meeting monthly. A kickoff event is scheduled for October 28.
- Pathways to Healthier African American Families in Beloit has been meeting regularly and has subcommittees with chairs and bylaws. The convening agency hired Angela Moore as
Project Coordinator. Marilyn Kilgore and Angela Moore appeared in an article in the Beloit Daily News to help raise awareness in community. The project is hosting their sixth Annual health Fair on October 2.

- Milwaukee-The Planning Council has been holding multiple community engagement meetings and plan to host a major kickoff event on October 14. The project is now fully staffed.
- Racine LIHF now has a project coordinator. The Racine Collaborative is meeting regularly in the development of their community action plan.

Evaluation workgroup

Paul Moberg and Nancy Eberle reported on progress with LIHF evaluation planning. The evaluation activities will focus on two areas, laying the foundation for outcome and process evaluation and document and assess the Community Action Planning process. This will include measuring changes in the number and quality of relationships between coalition participants with the Wilder Collaboration Factors Inventory.

Moberg reported that evaluation planning is a collaborative effort involving members of each community. An evaluation plan will be developed with participation from a broad-based evaluation workgroup to plan, oversee, and support evaluation of the initiative. Moberg presented the proposed evaluation workgroup and the three areas of needs assessment during the planning phase. He presented the preliminary results from the Wilder Collaborations Factors Inventory. The survey had over a 50% response rate, which was very good.

5. Open Forum

Farrell opened the meeting to guests and members for comments.

Onheiber reported that the statewide healthy birth outcomes initiative is a standing agenda topic for DHS Secretary Karen Timberlake. She also reports on LIHF to the Secretary on a regular basis. DHS will be reporting to special legislative study committee.

Steering Committee members had the following comments and questions:

- Izzard requested an update on the status of the WPP endowment over past year and implications for the LIHF implementation phase
- Marks encouraged Steering Committee members to help the four LIHF grantees understand their responsibility to accountability goals to the Steering Committee, OAC, WUHF, and the people of the state. With future funding, there will also be outcome expectations.
- Lathen encouraged LIHF Steering Committee members to attend any meetings of the four collaboratives

6. Legislative Council Study

Farrell reported that the Wisconsin Legislative Council has convened a Special Study Committee on Infant Mortality. Several members of the Steering Committee are members including Mason, Johnson, Lathen and Katcher. The Special Committee is directed to “study: (a) the causes of infant mortality in Wisconsin; (b) evaluation of efforts that have been undertaken to address this problem in both the private and public sectors; (c) coordination of public health and Medicaid funding; (d) evaluation of infant mortality prevention programs that have been successful in other cities and states; (e) evaluation
of the public health costs of not addressing the causes of infant mortality in Wisconsin; and (f) developing a strategic proposal, including any necessary legislation, to address infant mortality in Wisconsin, particularly disparities in infant mortality rates in different geographic areas of the state.”

The Council invited Farrell to give an introductory presentation at the inaugural meeting of the Council on September 8, 2010. His presentation is titled “African American Infant Mortality in WI: A Tragic Problem and a National Disgrace that Deserves Urgent Attention, Resources, and Leadership”. Farrell provided an overview of his presentation in three sections:

- The problem of infant mortality disparities and understanding of the challenge and implications of the data.
- The program and why the Lifecourse perspective must be used to address this problem; multidimensional solution
- Possibilities

Members provided comments and suggestions on Farrell’s Council presentation.

7. Adjourn

Members suggested topics for future meeting including conflict of interest and the evolving role of the Steering Committee. Farrell adjourned the meeting at 1:40 pm.

Recorder, Cathy Frey