Members Present: Philip Farrell (phone), Chris Holmes (phone), Katherine Marks (phone), Doug Mormann (phone), Greg Nycz (phone), Pat Remington

Members Absent: Susan Goelzer, Susan Haq

Staff: Quinton Cotton, Cathy Frey, Mary Jo Knobloch, Tonya Mathison, Ann McCall, Karen Roach, Eileen Smith, Steve Smith

1. Call meeting to order

Remington called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.

2. Presentation and acceptance of the revised list of expert reviewers for the Community Grants Program

Knobloch reported that the list of expert external reviewers for the Community-Academic Partnership Fund – Community Grants Program has been finalized to ensure diversity and the absence of conflicts of interest. Mormann seconded a motion by Nycz to accept the revised list. Knobloch acknowledged a request by Marks to ensure geographic diversity on future lists. Marks had noted there were few reviewers outside southeast Wisconsin. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

3. Discussion of the LIHF 2012 Request for Partnership notices of intent and decision on which should advance for full applications

Farrell presented an overview of the notices of intent submitted during the 2012 funding cycle of the Community-Academic Partnership Fund – LIHF Project Grants Program. The WPP received 33 notices of intent, 22 implementation and 11 development. Applications are well distributed among the four sites and total just under $6 million, less than the program’s $8 million budget. Core program staff completed an initial technical and merit review of the notices of intent, and then met with members of the LIHF Steering Committee review panel to discuss each.

Farrell shared the reviewers’ recommendation to invite full proposals from all 33 applicants. Overall, the applications were responsive to the requirements of the RFP, and aligned well with local community action plans. Holmes seconded a motion by Nycz to approve the recommendation to invite 33 full applications. Marks requested that notification to the applicants make very clear that this is a competitive process with no assurance of funding. There was a general discussion of the use of the remaining budget funds for the program, which was tabled until review of the full applications is complete and awards have been made. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Applicants will be notified of their status. Those invited to submit full applications will be encouraged to attend Technical Assistance Days in their community in October. The WPP staff will meet with project teams individually to answer questions and provide information on program planning and evaluation, budget and community academic partnerships. Extensive resources are also available on the WPP website in addition to a webinar that provides general information. Full applications, due October 31, will undergo expert external panel review.
4. Update on Milwaukee Lifecourse Initiative for Healthy Families

Eileen Smith reported on a number of important issues concerning the future of the Milwaukee LIHF Collaborative, most notably the recent resignation of the co-chairs of the Steering Committee and Collaborative. Smith, Frey and Cotton met with the Milwaukee LIHF co-chairs, Earnestine Willis and Shawn Green, to get a more comprehensive understanding of the issues which led to their resignation. Paula Penebaker, President and CEO of YWCA of Greater Milwaukee, also participated as the fiscal sponsor. The problems shared fell into four categories: leadership, structure, resources and communication.

Smith clarified that action by OAC is not necessary at this time since the WPP is still fact-finding. She indicated that her objective at this meeting is to fully inform the OAC and to seek their advice. Fact-finding will continue with upcoming meetings with the Milwaukee representatives on the LIHF Steering Committee and representatives of the Milwaukee LIHF Steering Committee. Holmes shared her confidence that this situation can be resolved and indicated that additional money for infrastructure support may be necessary. Nycz commented that Milwaukee is a large city, and asked about lessons learned from the Harlem project. Farrell encouraged OAC to remain optimistic and indicated that the WPP is being proactive in putting together a plan to address the concerns. Nycz added that WPP’s actions are true to the spirit of the cooperative agreements made with the LIHF Collaboratives. Further discussion will be held with the OAC at upcoming meetings as a plan is developed to address the current issues.

5. Adjourn

Remington adjourned the meeting at 4:15 p.m.

Recorder, Tonya Mathison
Secretary, Chris Holmes