

Minutes

UW School of Medicine and Public Health Oversight and Advisory Committee and Medical Education and Research Committee Joint Meeting

1:00 PM October 24, 2007 – Room 4201 Health Sciences Learning Center

OAC Members Present: Phil Farrell, Mike Fleming, Meg Gaines, Susan Goelzer, Lorraine Lathen, Doug Mormann, Greg Nycz

MERC Members Present: Bill Busse, Molly Carnes, Cindy Czajkowski, Paul DeLuca, Norm Drinkwater, Susan Goelzer, Tom Grist, Cindy Haq, Rick Moss, Javier Nieto, Greg Nycz, Mary Beth Plane, Patrick Remington, Gordon Ridley, Susan Skochelak, Jeff Stearns, Rod Welch

Members Absent: Sanjay Asthana, Jeff Grossman, June Martin Perry, George Wilding

Guests: Alexandra Adams, Richard Brown, Robert Golden

Staff: Tracy Cabot, Cathy Frey, Tonya Mathison, Ken Mount, Eileen Smith, Karla Thompson

1. Welcome, introductions and remarks

Dean Robert Golden called the meeting to order at 1:10pm. He welcomed everyone to the second joint meeting of the OAC and MERC.

Golden presented his five year vision for the School of Medicine and Public Health (SMPH) as it relates to the Wisconsin Partnership Program (WPP). Golden sees the WPP as a vital catalyst of the School's transformation to an integrated school of medicine and public health – a transformation that Golden hopes will make a dramatic and sustained impact on the health of Wisconsin's residents. It will interweave the School with communities in a way that has not been done before. In order to make this dramatic and sustained impact, Golden emphasized that the WPP funds must be leveraged with other resources from the School, state, campus, and other partners. He stressed that we must be ambitious with our approaches in attacking Wisconsin's complex health problems, but at the same time we must accept that change will not occur overnight.

Golden described his key themes for the WPP, which are: Balance in what we support, Excellence in all we do, Leveraging for additional external support and greatest impact, and Transformation into an integrated school of medicine and public health.

Golden concluded by emphasizing that in the same way that the WPP must work with partners across the state to impact health outcomes, so too must the OAC and MERC. He asked the committees to identify synergies and untapped opportunities. Dean Golden also recommended partnering more closely with the Medical College of Wisconsin (MCW). He asked the participants for feedback.

Greg Nycz and Molly Carnes spoke in support of Dean Golden's presentation. Doug Mormann added that communities have great interest in partnering with the School. Meg Gaines indicated that although the WPP plays an important role in the School's transformation, the program must also have an identity and character of its own that is independent of the transformation.

2. Highlights since joint meeting in 2006

Since Paul DeLuca has had several opportunities to provide updates to OAC this year, he focused his remarks on the MERC's strategic planning retreat held on September 25. He was pleased that several OAC members attended the retreat. Dean Golden presented his vision for transformation of the SMPH and the role of the WPP in the transformation. In addition a number of suggestions on a variety of topics were discussed. Detailed minutes are being translated into a strategic planning document for development of the education and research initiatives for the next five year plan. Both documents will be circulated to MERC and OAC.

DeLuca reported that MERC discussed ways to collaborate with OAC on developing initiatives that advance the WPP's mission. DeLuca emphasized that the work of the OAC and MERC must become seamless. He added that it has been invaluable having OAC members serve on MERC and share OAC's perspective. DeLuca reported that the MERC Executive Subcommittee recently discussed the concept of developing a joint competitive RfP program to harness the creativity of faculty and community groups.

DeLuca closed by announcing that the MERC Conflict of Interest Subcommittee drafted a policy for discussion at the November 12 MERC meeting. He thanked Susan Goelzer, Greg Nycz, and Doug Mormann for their service on the Subcommittee.

Phil Farrell was interested in the development of a joint RfP and wondered if it would focus on a targeted topic. DeLuca responded that the RfP is meant to build bonds between SMPH faculty and the community and could focus on a spectrum of topics. Dean Golden noted that the OAC and MERC could develop a joint RfP around a specific topic, such as obesity. He added that OAC and MERC could supplement grants funded by the other committee. For example, MERC could support a research or education component on an OAC grant or OAC could support a service component on a MERC grant.

Since MERC has been informed on a regular basis regarding OAC's activities, Susan Goelzer suggested moving to the next agenda item.

3. Presentation of community-based research projects

Susan Goelzer emphasized that as both committees begin to focus on development of the next five year plan, it is important to recognize the potential synergies between projects funded by OAC and MERC. She noted that three Principal Investigators were selected to present at the joint meeting because their projects bridge the work of MERC and OAC. Goelzer added that while all three are research projects by definition, they all have strong connections with community organizations and with the application and dissemination of knowledge and translational work.

The following Principal Investigators provided an overview of their programs and discussed the challenges and successes of their community-based research:

Javier Nieto, MD, PhD, Professor and Chair, Department of Population Health Sciences
Survey of the Health of Wisconsin

Alexandra Adams, MD, PhD, Assistant Professor, Department of Family Medicine
Healthy Children Strong Families

Rich Brown, MD, MPH, Associate Professor, Department of Family Medicine
Polk County Alcohol and Drug Outreach and Training (PolkADOT) Program

4. OAC Special Initiative on Health Disparities in Birth Outcomes

Mike Fleming reported that OAC is investing special funding into a long-term initiative aimed at reducing health disparities in birth outcomes in Wisconsin. A Subcommittee leading the formal planning process is made up of Mike Fleming, Meg Gaines, Lorraine Lathen, and June Martin Perry. Dick Aronson, MD, MPH, was hired to write a white paper identifying evidence-based interventions, initiatives underway in Wisconsin, model community-based programs occurring in other states, and possible partners. Aronson will present his paper to OAC in January, 2008. The Subcommittee plans to develop an RfP next Spring. Fleming concluded by proposing that MERC and OAC work together to improve birth outcomes in Wisconsin. He suggested that MERC develop and test new interventions that OAC can implement in communities throughout Wisconsin.

5. Wisconsin Partnership Program Five-Year Plan

Smith provided an update on progress in developing the 2009-2014 Five-Year Plan. She reported that OAC and MERC have approved the timeline and have reviewed the outline of issues. The plan outline is being developed and will be shared with OAC and MERC at future meetings. Input will be gathered from internal and external audiences using community forums and interviews by the Survey Research Center. Drafting of the plan will begin in January, 2008.

6. Member wrap-up comments

Dean Golden asked for participants' final thoughts and comments. Farrell recommended that in order to make an impact, OAC and MERC must target funding toward Wisconsin's major health issues. Nycz agreed and added that there is also value in funding ideas that bubble-up from the communities. Goelzer recommended that David Kindig present an update on *Making Wisconsin the Healthiest State* at the OAC and MERC meetings in January, 2008.

Dean Golden thanked the participants and encouraged the committees to continue working together on the difficult, but meaningful work of the WPP.

Dean Golden adjourned the meeting at 3:05pm.

Recorder, Tonya Mathison