

Minutes

UW School of Medicine and Public Health (SMPH) Oversight and Advisory Committee Special Initiative Subcommittee 12:00 PM, September 19, 2007 – 4201 HSLC

Members Present by Phone: Mike Fleming, Meg Gaines, Lorraine Lathen, June Martin Perry

Staff: Cathy Frey, Tonya Mathison, Eileen Smith

Invited Guests: Dick Aronson (phone), Susan Goelzer, Greg Nycz

1. Call meeting to order

Fleming called the meeting to order at 12:15pm.

2. Progress report and update from consultant Richard Aronson MD MPH on the special funding initiative, “Health Disparities in Birth Outcomes”.

Dick Aronson, MD, MPH, gave a consultant progress update on a report to provide guidance to Oversight and Advisory Committee (OAC) on funding options to address birth outcomes among disparate populations in Wisconsin. Aronson responded to several questions from the Subcommittee:

1. What activities have occurred/progress made so far?
 - Aronson provided an overview of an extensive list of contacts he has made to date for the project. Frey distributed the list to the Subcommittee.
 - Gaines stressed that Aronson should be aware that some of whom he has contacted may be future grantees on this project.
 - Martin Perry recommended that Aronson review a June 20, 2006 publication in the Wall Street Journal, Every Child Succeeds. Aronson responded that he read the article recently and requested that the Subcommittee send him any other appropriate publications.
2. Who will constitute your “advisory team”?
 - Aronson’s original proposal included an advisory team, but he prefers to avoid developing a formal advisory team since so many groups already work on birth outcomes among disparate populations. Aronson assured the Subcommittee that he would listen to a wide spectrum of voices.
 - Gaines stressed the use of an advisory team, even if the team meets informally, and recommended that Aronson work with Earnestine Willis and Helene Nelson.
 - Martin Perry suggested having Willis and Nelson review the final draft of the report for their input before it is reviewed by OAC; maybe bring together a focus group at the end of the project. Aronson agreed.

3. What will be the role of other community partners?
 - DHFS has allocated a staff person, Diane Jenkins, to support Aronson's project. She is compiling an inventory of all programs in Wisconsin communities that address disparities in birth outcomes.
4. Do you anticipate any changes to your proposal?
 - Aronson anticipates two changes: The first change – formation of an advisory team – was already discussed. Aronson will meet with key advisors at the end of the process to get their feedback on the final draft before it is sent to OAC.
 - Second, Aronson requested an extension of the deadline to December 31, 2007. The Subcommittee agreed.
5. How will you interface with the public on behalf of the Subcommittee?
 - The meeting materials included a draft letter that Aronson plans to submit to a large group of stakeholders. The Wisconsin Partnership Program staff will assist in this effort.
 - Frey requested that members send her any changes by email after reviewing the letter.
6. What is your understanding of our expectations for the report?
 - Aronson will provide recommendations based on evidence-based interventions. The interventions will be summarized and referenced.
 - Fleming clarified that the report must also include a list of ongoing projects addressing birth outcomes among disparate populations, a list of key players who OAC may work with on this project in the future, and recommendations of potential initiatives in Wisconsin. The Subcommittee added that recommendations should be provided regardless of the extent of funding required.
7. How can the Subcommittee be useful to you in the development of the report?
 - Aronson suggested meeting with the Subcommittee monthly before the OAC meetings.

3. Adjourn

Fleming adjourned the meeting at 1:05pm.

Recorder, Tonya Mathison