

Minutes

Service/Outreach Strategic Plan Subcommittee of the
Medical Education and Research Committee (MERC)
January 22, 2008 at 12:00pm – Room 4250 HSLC

Members Present: Sanjay Asthana, Susan Goelzer, Cindy Haq, June Martin Perry (phone), Greg Nycz, Mary Beth Plane, Pat Remington (advisor)

Members Absent: Mike Fleming

Staff Present: Tracy Cabot, Cathy Frey, Tonya Mathison, Eileen Smith

1. Call meeting to order

Haq called the meeting to order at 12:05pm and distributed a revised agenda.

2. Background and Charge to the MERC Strategic Plan Subcommittees

To ensure MERC membership input and participation in the development of the 2009-2014 Five-Year Plan, the Committee established three Strategic Plan Subcommittees – Research, Education, and Service/Outreach. The “Strategic Retreat Overview and Outcomes” document, which summarizes the MERC strategic planning retreat, provides the framework for the subcommittee discussions.

Smith reported that the Service/Outreach Strategic Plan Subcommittee was charged with prioritizing the participant suggestions under Service/Outreach in Section II while considering Dean Golden’s Goals and Objectives in Section I. The Subcommittee must also consider Faculty Development and OAC/MERC Collaboration in Section II, and Challenges and Issues in Section III, as they relate to service and outreach. The Subcommittee will develop a final report and rationale explaining the prioritization, which will be discussed by MERC in March, 2008.

3. Potential domains of service and community engagement

There was general agreement by the Subcommittee to change “Service/Outreach” in section II to “Community Engagement”. Nycz commented that the service component of MERC is not about providing clinical services or conducting more research in community settings, but the dissemination of research findings for practice application in the community. Remington stressed that the SMPH must engage the community in a partnership whereby the community benefits in a meaningful way. Plane emphasized that engagement must be bi-directional between the SMPH and the community. Martin Perry added that there are many definitions of community – rural, urban, public, and private, etc. – and recommended selecting a working definition. Asthana stressed the importance of using existing infrastructure in the SMPH and in the community to enhance this bi-directional partnership. Goelzer suggested developing community-academic partnerships through new or existing SMPH or community-based Centers to promote research partnerships that involve community organizations.

Haq introduced the idea of creating institutional measures of social accountability in meeting the needs of the state, noting the importance of relevance, quality, cost and equity of service,

education and research. She described three models to help the subcommittee consider the potential domains of service and community engagement:

The Partnership Pentagon which was developed as a part of the World Health Organization's "Towards Unity for Health" project. In order to create a health system that addresses people's needs, five principal partners must be aligned in partnership: community, academics, clinics/systems, finances, and government. Haq noted that connections among the five partners are integral to building a functioning health system.

A Venn diagram of three overlapping circles – service, education, and research to represent the intersection of MERC funded activities.

The Social Accountability Grid, a framework developed as part of the World Health Organization's "Towards Unity for Health" for assessing a medical school's education, research and service missions.

After a discussion, the Service/Outreach Subcommittee made the following recommendations and suggestions for consideration at the next meeting:

- Expand "Community Engagement" in section II to include the following possible domains: clinical services, outreach education, community partnerships, community-based prevention and outcomes research, evaluation and service learning.
- Increase the number of research and education proposals with a community engagement component.
- Build community partnerships upon the strengths and assets of the SMPH.
- Engage existing SMPH Centers and develop new SMPH or community-based Centers where OAC and MERC could jointly fund pilot projects and community research. For example, the development of a "Center on Community Health Improvement Research".
- Implement a shared service model for intramural research whereby technical assistance, program planning and evaluation services are made available to the community, including library resources.
- Consider specific State Health Plan priorities in addition to Dean Golden's priorities.
- Consider processes and mechanisms by which the SMPH can better communicate, engage and work with communities as participants.
- Build new collaborations across system campuses and with business to address statewide health improvement efforts.

4. Next Steps

Haq encouraged members to review the following documents which are available in the World Health Organization Library Database:

Defining and measuring the social accountability of medical schools, Division of Development of Human Resources for Health, World Health Organization, Geneva, Switzerland, 1995

Full Text: http://whqlibdoc.who.int/hq/1995/WHO_HRH_95.7.pdf

Towards Unity for Health: Challenges and opportunities for partnership in health development, a working paper, World Health Organization, Geneva, Switzerland, 2000

Full Text: http://whqlibdoc.who.int/hq/2000/WHO_EIP_OSD_2000.9.pdf

Priorities at the interface of health care, medical practice and medical education; abbreviated report of the global conference on international collaboration on medical education and practice, June 12-15, 1994, Rockford, Illinois, USA, World Health Organization, Geneva, 1995

Full Text: http://whqlibdoc.who.int/hq/1995/WHO_HRH_95.3.pdf

The Service/Outreach Subcommittee will meet again in February to discuss the final committee report.

5. Adjourn

Haq adjourned the meeting at 1:50pm.

Recorder, Tonya Mathison