

Minutes

UW Medical School Oversight and Advisory Committee 9:00 AM May 13, 2004 – Fluno Center

Members Present:

Margaret MacLeod Brahm
Philip Farrell
Susan Goelzer
Mary Lauby

Patrick McBride
Nancy Miller-Korth (by phone)
Doug Mormann (by phone)
Gregory Nycz
Pat Remington

Guests:

Pat Boyle
Linda Dietrich
Richard Reynolds

Staff:

Carla Eakins
Tonya Paulson
Eileen Smith

The meeting was called to order by Phil Farrell at 9:12 AM.

1. Approval of Minutes of April 12, 2004 Meeting

Farrell asked if there were any changes to the draft minutes of the April 12 OAC meeting. Since no changes were suggested, Nycz moved to approve the minutes as distributed. The motion was seconded by Goelzer and passed by unanimous vote.

2. Announcements

Farrell reported that on May 10, he and Eileen Smith attended the Conference on Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Birth Outcomes in Milwaukee, sponsored by the Department of Health & Family Services, Wisconsin Ethnic Network Collaborative, Milwaukee Healthy Beginnings Project of the Black Coalition and the Center for Cultural Diversity in Health Care, UW Medical School. The conference was a call to action to improve birth outcomes, initially focusing on African-American infants since statistics show that birth outcomes are threefold worse in African-Americans than in the white population in Milwaukee, Madison, Racine and Kenosha.

Farrell announced that annual meeting of the OAC with the MCW Consortium on Public and Community Health will likely be scheduled in mid to late August. Discussion will focus on the grant cycles and the recommendations of the joint workgroup on public health education and training. There is great community interest in how the respective oversight committees are coordinating and collaborating.

Farrell reported that the terms of office of four members of the OAC will expire on September 1, 2004, i.e., Margaret MacLeod Brahm, Greg Nycz, Phil Farrell and Pat McBride. The nominating process will be conducted as specified in the Insurance Commissioner's Order and the OAC bylaws, with appointments being made by the Board of Regents for four-year terms. Mary Lauby, Nancy Miller-Korth and Doug Mormann will serve as the nominating committee for the public members. Although it is possible for UW members to be reappointed, Pat McBride will not be a candidate for reappointment since he will begin his new position as Associate Dean for Students on July 1, 2004. Eileen Smith will work with the nominating committee for the public members and the Medical School Department Chairs to obtain faculty nominations and will plan to present the nominations to the Board of Regents for consideration at their August meeting.

Farrell invited Nycz and Remington to report on the progress of the State Committee on Implementation and Evaluation of the State Health Plan. Remington reported that the Governor recently signed a bill (SB120) which will create a 23-member Public Health Council in the Department of Health & Family Services (DHFS), which will include a representative from each of the medical schools. The Council will advise DHFS, the Governor, the Legislature, and the public on progress in implementing the State Health Plan. Remington expects that the Implementation and Evaluation Committee is likely to continue, but its reporting responsibilities might change. He suggested that the OAC or the Medical School should proactively contact the Governor's office and offer support for the Public Health Council. He suggested that it be discussed at the joint meeting with MCW's oversight consortium. Smith commented that she had reviewed the addendum to the Plan which states that the OAC will collaborate with the DHFS, on evaluating the progress of the Wisconsin Partnership in advancing the goals of the state health.

Remington suggested formalizing the role of the OAC with the Department of Health & Family Services—perhaps appointing someone from that agency to serve as an ex officio member of the OAC. The Committee discussed whether or not that would be desirable and how it might be accomplished. Helen Madsen commented that appointing an ex officio member of the OAC would require a change in the bylaws; however, appointing a consultant can be accomplished without a change in bylaws. Nycz suggested having a consultant appointed by the Secretary of the Department of Health & Family Services whose attendance at meetings would be determined by the agendas. Remington agreed that a consultant would be very helpful in improving communication between the OAC and DHFS. Miller-Korth suggested scheduling regular meetings—perhaps quarterly—with Helene Nelson, Secretary of DHFS, to help identify issues of concern. After a lengthy discussion, it was the consensus of the committee that communication and coordination with DHFS is important, but no decision was reached on the most appropriate mechanism for doing so. This issue will be discussed further at a future meeting.

3. Strategic Topics for Future Meetings

Goelzer suggested that a critical issue will be how the OAC should coordinate with the MERC; she suggested that quarterly meetings might be helpful. She also commented that the visiting professorships could help bring everybody together. They could be used to highlight and extend the work of the OAC and the MERC. Remington agreed that the link between the OAC and the MERC is an overriding issue and it will be important for the OAC representatives on the MERC to report back to the OAC regularly. Farrell commented that it will be important to identify issues in the 65% component that are synergistic with initiatives in the 35%. Remington commented that the MPH program has been moved from the 35% to the 65%, and that program will have considerable visibility in communities throughout the state. He also pointed out that the proposed Visiting Professorship (a public health person of national caliber) would bring new spark to the Medical School. Farrell reported that he has suggested that Dr. William Roper, former Dean of the School of Public Health at the University of North Carolina and currently Dean of the Medical School there, serve as a Visiting Professor.

Nycz commented on the importance of coordination between the 35% and 65%; he emphasized that the vision for the Wisconsin Partnership Fund has already been advanced, and the MERC members must adopt it and understand that the prime objective is to improve the health of Wisconsin. Smith reported the MERC will be given an overview of the Insurance Commissioner's Order, the Grant Agreement and the plan. Lauby suggested that OAC members regularly receive notices and minutes of the MERC meetings. In response to a question from Remington, Farrell reported that the MERC will share the vision of transformation of the Medical School to an integrated school of medicine and public health. The MERC members are a diverse and excellent group of faculty and staff.

4. Discussion of Review Panels for Community-Academic Partnership Applications

Farrell called the committee's attention to the "Questions for OAC to Resolve Regarding Proposal Review Process" document which had been distributed. Committee members discussed issues such as reliability of reviewers, the appropriate number of reviewers for each grant, and whether reviewers should be OAC members or paid outside reviewers. It was the consensus of the committee that all planning grant applications should be reviewed by two OAC members and one outside reviewer, with each reviewer scoring the applications independently. It was decided that implementation grant proposals should each be reviewed by three paid outside reviewers. The committee members concurred that the first cycle will be a learning experience. Smith reported that she currently has a list of 90 nominees and indicated that additional nominations would be accepted until May 17. She will contact all nominees and ask for their resumes. Committee members agreed that the NIH rate of \$150 per day is appropriate and that reviewers would be expected to review 10 planning grant applications or 5 implementation grant applications per day. The committee members discussed the statement in Section VI.2, Merit Review, concerning utilizing a panel of nationally recognized experts from schools of public health in the Midwest to meet and discuss the results of the scoring and make recommendations to

the OAC. It was decided that this was an unnecessary step which should be eliminated from the review process..

Smith reported that she has received a request from Dr. Murray Katcher, Chief Medical Officer, Bureau of Community Health and Prevention, Department of Health & Family Services, that titles and abstracts of grant applications be sent to the Chief Medical Officers at DHFS for review, not to score, but to determine if the applications address priorities of the State Health Plan. Nycz suggested that such reviews could potentially be biased because of DHFS priorities and indicated that since several OAC members actively participated in the development of the State Health Plan, they could determine whether proposals fit into the priorities of the State Health Plan. He felt that DHFS staff could be helpful in providing information on funding opportunities for applicants not selected for funding by OAC. Lauby pointed out that this would be an additional level of review which is not included in the RfP, i.e., applicants have not been notified about this possibility. Nycz questioned how the Division of Health stated priorities would affect the Chief Medical Officers review. Madsen commented that if abstracts are submitted to DHFS, they will become public documents. After discussion, it was clear that OAC members had mixed opinions on Dr. Katcher's proposal, but they agreed that such review would not be appropriate for planning grant applications and that further discussion would take place at a future meeting on implementation grant proposals. Smith will contact Dr. Katcher to obtain more information on the purpose, objectives, format, content and proposed timing of the requested reviews.

5. Update on Public Health Education and Training Workgroup

Remington called the committee's attention to the Workgroup Statement of Purpose which had been distributed and introduced a motion that the OAC accept the Statement of Purpose. The motion was seconded by Mormann and passed by unanimous vote.

Remington reported that MCW has committed to establishment of a Public Health Leadership Institute with UW, with Peter Layde as the MCW leader. This will be a collaborative effort with a shared oversight role. He reported that the workgroup has resolved to form a planning group which will study national models and send individuals to a national Public Health Institute. It is proposed that the planning process begin in January, 2005. Farrell suggested that this be included on the agenda for the joint meeting with the MCW Consortium.

Remington reported that the fellowship program, which will attract national attention by transferring science to public health, will be unique to UW since MCW does not expect to have a similar program. Fellows will be hired by the University of Wisconsin, after review and approval by the OAC, and placed in community organizations. He also indicated that the MCW's plan does not include state and regional conferences, such as those proposed by George Mejicano, so they will not be jointly funded. These conferences will provide geographic breadth to the program. He recommended that Mejicano be invited to the next OAC meeting to discuss how to proceed.

6.. Discussion of Process for Review of Proposals and Allocation of Funding

- a. Center for Urban Population Health
- b. Native American Health Research
- c. Community-Based Public Health Education and Training

Smith reported that both CUPH and the Native American Health Research program will need to comply as much as possible with the RfP requirements; she has discussed this with CUPH Director, Ron Cisler, and he is well along in thinking about developing a proposal and understands the \$150,000 limit. Farrell asked Miller-Korth if the Native American Health Research proposal would be completed by June 24, but she indicated that it would be completed later in the summer.

Farrell announced that the next OAC meeting will be held on June 24 in the Board Room of the Health Sciences Learning Center and will include a tour of the new building. Parking information and directions will be provided in advance of the meeting.

Smith announced that an outreach specialist will be recruited soon.

7. Wisconsin County Health Rankings

Remington briefly reviewed the *Wisconsin County Health Rankings 2003* report which had been distributed. He reported that Wisconsin was considered the fourth healthiest state 15 years ago and is now ranked 14th, primarily due to lack of improvement in infant mortality and stagnation of rate of tobacco use. He also commented on increasing health disparities, with the gap having grown in every age group. After lengthy discussion of this report, the meeting adjourned at 1:00 PM.

Carla Eakins
Recorder

Douglas Mormann
Secretary