

Minutes
Health Research Advisory Committee
May 28, 2013
Health and Welfare Building, Room 129
Commonwealth Avenue and Forster Street
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

Committee Members Present:

Attendance in person

Michael Wolf, Secretary of Health and Chair of the Committee, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

Participation via Teleconference

Karen Wolk Feinstein, PhD, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Jewish Healthcare Foundation

Lewis Kuller, MD, DrPH, Professor of Epidemiology and University Professor of Public Health, Graduate School of Public Health, University of Pittsburgh

Arthur Levine, MD, Senior Vice Chancellor for Health Sciences and Dean of the School of Medicine, University of Pittsburgh

Michael Parmacek, MD, Herbert C. Rorer Professor of Medical Sciences and Director of the Penn Cardiovascular Institute, University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine

Kim Smith-Whitley, MD, Assistant Professor, Department of Hematology, The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia

Department of Health (DOH) Staff Present:

Attendance in person

Anne Baker, Deputy Secretary for Administration

Keith Fickel, Esq., Senior Counsel, Office of Legal Counsel

Sylvia Golas, DMD, MPH, Program Administrator, Health Research Program, Bureau of Health Statistics and Research

Marina Matthew, RHIA, Director, Bureau of Health Statistics and Research

Bob Shaffer, Program Analyst 2, Health Research Program, Bureau of Health Statistics and Research

Travis Zangrilli, MS, Program Manager, Health Research Program, Bureau of Health Statistics and Research

Others in Attendance

Attendance in person

Mary Anne Botte, Webber Associates

Brittany Rieker, Intern, Greenlee Partners

Participation via Teleconference

Janet Kile, Project Manager, Oak Ridge Associated Universities, Inc.

Linda Naney, Project Advisor, Group Manager, Oak Ridge Associated Universities, Inc.

Call to Order

Secretary Michael Wolf called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. on Tuesday, March 28, 2013, in Room 129 of the Health and Welfare Building in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. Mr. Wolf welcomed Committee members, Department of Health staff, and members of the public to the meeting. He invited all those present in person and via teleconference to introduce themselves for the record. Mr. Wolf then announced that the primary purpose of the meeting was to discuss and to vote on the 2013-2014 Formula Grant priorities. In addition, there would be a final presentation of the CURE Program Review, which was completed by Oak Ridge Associated Universities (ORAU).

Minutes of the February 28, 2013 Meeting

When a quorum of members was present via telephone, Mr. Wolf called for a motion to accept the minutes of the meeting held on February 28, 2013. Dr. Levine moved to accept the minutes of the meeting. Dr. Parmeczek seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Review of Requirements and Guiding Principles for Selecting Research Priorities

Secretary Wolf introduced the next item on the agenda and asked Mr. Travis Zangrilli to review the specific requirements in the Tobacco Settlement Act, Act 2001-77, regarding the selection of research priorities and issues that need to be considered in setting the annual Formula priorities.

Following Mr. Zangrilli's presentation, Mr. Wolf stated that since the CURE program's inception, the Health Research Advisory Committee has recommended that the Formula grant research priorities remain the same. He stated that the three Formula priorities since the program's inception have been clinical, health services, and/or biomedical research as defined by the Act.

Questions and Discussion:

Dr. Kuller asked what determined the loss of the Non-formula funds. He also questioned at what level the decision was made to remove the Non-formula funds and whether the Department had any input in the decision. Mr. Wolf responded that the Department did have input into the decision and that there had been an unsuccessful effort to put the Non-formula funds back into the budget for the 2012-2013 state fiscal year. Mr. Wolf then stated that the negotiation process for the 2013-2014 budget would be starting soon. He informed the committee, however, that the governor's proposed fiscal year budget for 2013-2014 also included formula funds only.

Health Research Program 2013-2014 Formula Grant Priorities

Mr. Wolf opened the floor for discussion regarding the 2013-2014 Formula Grant priorities, and no discussion occurred. Mr. Wolf then called for a motion, and Dr. Levine moved to accept the Health Research Program 2013-2014 Formula Grant Priorities. Dr. Parmeczek seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

CURE Program Review Final Report Presentation by Oak Ridge Associated Universities

Secretary Wolf presented an overview of the Health Research Program (CURE) review. An Executive Summary of the report was provided via email to Committee members prior to the meeting. Mr. Wolf then turned the floor over to Janet Kile and Linda Naney for ORAU's Pennsylvania Department of Health Tobacco Research Program Review Final Report presentation.

Following ORAU's presentation, Deputy Secretary Anne Baker stated that Secretary Wolf had to step out of the meeting. She thanked the ORAU representatives for their report and proceeded to open the floor for questions and discussion about the report.

Questions and Discussion:

In response to a question from Ms. Baker regarding the best websites to utilize as a model for revising the CURE website, Ms. Kile indicated that the web-sites for Florida and Texas were outstanding models for web-site communication, transparency, and ease of use. Ms. Baker asked a second question regarding how an electronic grant system would function. Ms. Kile replied that grantees would enter their own documents directly into the SharePoint system without any intermediary step.

Dr. Parmeczek asked if ORAU was able to assess the relative impact of the Formula funds versus the Non-formula funds in terms of the metrics that were reported. Ms. Kile responded that reported metric totals in the report included both Formula and Non-formula funds, combined. Separate numbers for Formula versus Non-formula funds were not calculated.

Dr. Kuller asked how many of the four states reviewed had a formula versus a non-formula system for awarding their grants. Ms. Kyle replied that all four states awarded grants via a competitive peer review process. None of them awarded grants using a formula based on funding from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the National Cancer Institute (NCI).

Plans for next 2013 Meeting

Ms. Baker stated that the next HRAC meeting would be held in the fall of 2013. Topics for the meeting would be determined at a later date.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:38 a.m.