

**Health Research Advisory Committee
Health and Welfare Building, Room 812
Commonwealth Avenue and Forster Street
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania**

**November 29, 2016
9:30 AM to 11:30 AM**

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

In person

- Karen M. Murphy, PhD, RN, Secretary of Health and Chair of the Committee, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
- Peter Tombros, MBA, Professor and Distinguished Executive in Residence, Eberly College of Science BS/MBA Program, Penn State University

Via WebEx

- Karen Wolk Feinstein, PhD, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Jewish Healthcare Foundation
- Dwight Davis, MD, Professor of Medicine and Medical Director, Cardiac Rehabilitation Program, Pennsylvania State University School of Medicine
- Michele Masucci, PhD, Vice President for Research Administration; Professor, Department of Geography and Urban Studies; Director, Information Technology and Society Research Group, Temple University
- Lewis Kuller, MD, DrPH, Professor of Epidemiology and University Professor of Public Health, Graduate School of Public Health, University of Pittsburgh
- Kim Smith-Whitley, MD, Associate Professor of Pediatrics, Division of Hematology, The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia
- Arthur Levine, MD, Senior Vice Chancellor for Health Sciences and Dean of the School of Medicine, University of Pittsburgh
- Michael Parmacek, MD, Frank Wister Thomas Professor of Medicine; Chair, Department of Medicine and Director of the Penn Cardiovascular Institute, University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine

Absent: None

Department of Health (DOH) staff in attendance:

- Lauren S. Hughes, MD, MPH, MSc, FAAFP, Deputy Secretary for Health Innovation
- Keith Fickel, Esq., Senior Counsel, Office of Legal Counsel
- Penny E. Harris, M.Ed., CAC, LPC, Program Manager, Health Research Office
- Sylvia Golas, DMD, MPH, Program Administrator, Health Research Office
- Susan Guy, Program Analyst, Health Research Office
- Beth Greenwalt, Administrative Officer, Health Research Office

Others in Attendance

- Mary M. Kennan, Contract Lobbyist, Webber Associates
- Christopher Stets, Office of Rep. Dermody

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➤ *Welcome and introductions*

Secretary Murphy welcomed Health Research Advisory Committee (Committee) members, Department of Health (DOH) staff, and members of the public to the meeting.

Secretary Murphy noted the primary purpose of the meeting was to re-engage the Committee with the CURE program and to decide on future research priorities.

➤ *Review and approval of August 24, 2015, minutes*

Dr. Masucci moved to accept the minutes.

Dr. Kuller seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

➤ *Review of the CURE program, priorities, and types of funding*

Secretary Murphy provided an overview of the Tobacco Settlement Act explaining the allocation of research funding into formula 70%/non-formula 30%. Additionally, the Secretary reviewed the decision-making process used by the Committee for non-formula priorities.

➤ *Discussion of research priorities for formula funds for State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2016-17*

Motion for setting priorities for SFY 2016-17 formula funds

Secretary Murphy reviewed with the members that the Committee's pattern has been to recommend that the research priorities for the formula grants remain the same as those identified in legislation as clinical, health services, and/or biomedical research.

Dr. Levine moved that the research priorities for formula grants remain as identified in the legislation.

Dr. Davis seconded the motion.

Following discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

➤ *Update on non-formula funding priorities*

Secretary Murphy shared the status of the two SFY 2015-16 non-formula priorities: healthcare innovation and traumatic brain injury. Fourteen applications were received (seven for each priority), and a waiver was obtained to use the funds past the end of the SFY 2015-16. The external peer review has occurred, and the DOH Final Review Committee has recommended six applications be funded.

Secretary Murphy discussed the decision made to combine the funding for SFY 2015-16 and SFY 2016-17 due to the desire of the Committee to return to the prior decision-making process, as well as to mitigate any further delays related to last year's budget impasse. During the discussion, members' concerns were addressed, including: the requested amounts by the applicants can be fully funded for the top six applications; there will not be a new call for the applications beyond those received; and the focus will be on funding high-quality proposals.

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➤ *Discussion of DOH priorities and initiatives*

Deputy Secretary Hughes reviewed at a high level the DOH focus areas as background to keep in mind as the Committee moves forward in its decision-making for future research priorities.

The topics covered included:

- The protocol for the establishment of research priorities developed by the Committee.
- An overview of the 2016 DOH strategic priorities.
- An overview of the Public Health Accreditation initiative.
- The State Health Improvement Plan, or SHIP, priorities have been created with the following goals: obesity, physical inactivity and nutrition; enhancing access to primary care and preventive services; and addressing mental health and substance issues.
- The Health Innovation in Pennsylvania, or HIP, plan represents the collective work of over 200 health and healthcare stakeholders, including leaders from multiple agencies in state government. Priorities in the area of innovation include transition from a volume-based system to a value-based system; focus on price and quality transparency; and rural health reform.

Secretary Murphy also discussed the Department's rural health reform initiative.

➤ *Discussion of process to select new non-formula funding priorities*

Ms. Harris provided details on the historical non-formula selection process. This included solicitation of public testimony and presentations/workshops to the Committee, followed by a recommendation of priorities. A timeline that was attached to the invitation was reviewed for Committee feedback.

Feedback included ideas for priorities, identifying multi-year priorities at one time, the drafting of white papers and a sense of urgency to compress the timeline.

Motion for a process to select new non-formula funding priorities

After Committee discussion, **Secretary Murphy** stated the following motion:

The deadline for submission of white/concept papers will be December 15th to the DOH. The papers will be provided to the members for review. At the next meeting in January, the members will make a selection on the research proposals for SFY 2017-18.

Dr. Levine moved to accept the motion.

Dr. Parmacek seconded the motion.

Following discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

➤ *Closing remarks and next steps/schedule for the remainder of 2016 and 2017*

Secretary Murphy expressed her gratitude for the Committee members' time. The Secretary identified the goal to move aggressively to meet the needs that the Committee stated. December 15th is the due date for submission of white/concept papers. The papers will be subsequently disseminated to the Committee members. An early January meeting will be scheduled.

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➤ *Meeting adjourns*

Secretary Murphy called for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Mr. Tombros moved to adjourn the meeting.

Dr. Masucci seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.