

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

**May 9, 2017  
9:00 AM to 11:00 AM**

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS:**

**In person**

- Karen M. Murphy, PhD, RN, Secretary of Health and Chair of the Committee, Pennsylvania Department of Health
- Peter Tombros, MBA, Professor and Distinguished Executive in Residence, Eberly College of Science BS/MBA Program, Penn State University
- Michele Masucci, PhD, Vice President for Research Administration; Professor, Department of Geography and Urban Studies; Director, Information Technology and Society Research Group, Temple University
- Donna Gentile O'Donnell, PhD, Special Assistant to the President and Senior Vice President of Innovation Programs and Partnerships, Thomas Jefferson University

**Via WebEx**

- Karen Wolk Feinstein, PhD, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Jewish Healthcare Foundation
- 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
- Pat Vance, retired Senator, having represented the 31<sup>st</sup> State Senatorial District

**Absent**

- Dwight Davis, MD, Professor of Medicine and Medical Director, Cardiac Rehabilitation Program, Pennsylvania State University School of Medicine

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

*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
- Alison Taylor, Esq., Chief 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 Anne Botte, Contract Lobbyist, Webber Associates
- Christopher Stets, Office of Rep. Dermody

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- Layton Brush, Data Base Administrator, DOH
- Ben Dannels, Associate, Greenlee Partners
- Edward L. Nielsen, MHS, Executive Vice President, Pennsylvania Chiropractic Association

➤ *Welcome and introductions*

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

**Secretary Murphy** noted the primary purpose of the meeting was to decide on the formula and non-formula priority(ies) for SFY 2017-18.

➤ *Review and approval of November 29, 2016, minutes*

*Peter Tombros* moved to accept the minutes.

*Dr. Masucci* seconded the motion.

*Dr. O'Donnell and Senator Vance* abstained.

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) 2017-18*

**Motion for setting priorities for SFY 2017-18 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.

*Peter Tombros* moved that the research priorities for formula grants remain as identified in the legislation.

*Dr. Masucci* seconded the motion.

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. Due to the budget impasse in the prior year, the SFY 2015-16 and 2016-17 funds were combined. The DOH Final Review Committee met in December and recommended the funding amounts for six applications which were approved. The applications are in process beyond the Health Research Office.

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➤ *Finalization of Research Priorities for Non-formula Funds for State Fiscal Year 2017-18*

**Penny Harris** reviewed with the members the two funding categories in Act 77 of “Clinical research and Health Services research” and “Other research.” In the past, the two funding categories have been combined by the Committee.

**Motion for non-formula research categories**

**Secretary Murphy** called for the motion to combine the two non-formula categories: “For the purpose of priority setting, the Health Research Advisory Committee recommends combining the two non-formula funding categories of clinical and health services research and other research. At least 50 percent of the funds must be spent on clinical research and/or health services research.”

*Dr. Arthur Levine* so moved.

*Dr. O'Donnell* seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

**Secretary Murphy** reviewed with the members the steps that had been taken regarding the identification of the State Fiscal Year 2017-18 non-formula priority. Three white papers had been submitted for the members to review. The primary objective was to consider comments on the white papers and to use that discussion to formulate the details for the top-ranked research priority for non-formula grants.

Dr. Arthur Levine, Dr. Feinstein, and Dr. Masucci, the authors of the white papers, provided an overview of their suggested non-formula priority ideas. Each member was asked to provide feedback on their position on the recommendations within the white papers.

Dr. O'Donnell provided a recommendation to have the authors review the papers to be combined. Dr. Arthur Levine recommended Temple or DOH staff put together the three papers with a draft circulated to everyone for comment. Following discussion, Dr. Murphy proposed a request to the authors of the papers to get together to submit a proposal that encompasses the integration of the white papers, in addition to the points raised during the discussion. The integrated paper would be circulated again among the membership. Dr. Arthur Levine suggested a draft to be completed by Dr. Masucci for efficiency with review by other authors. Dr. Masucci agreed to compose with contact with the other authors.

**Dr. Hughes** clarified a process point that the language produced by the membership in the summation of the three papers will be used as the “statement of work” within the request for applications following review by the DOH legal office.

➤ *Closing remarks and next steps/schedule*

**Dr. Hughes** expressed her gratitude for the Committee members' time. **Dr. Hughes** provided an overview of the next steps following the submission of the integrated paper. There will be no physical meeting with comments entertained via email. The next date has not been set by DOH; however, DOH desires to get future dates set soon. **Dr. Hughes** called for any additional questions.

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➤ *Meeting adjourns*

**Dr. Hughes** called for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

*Dr. Masucci* so moved.

*Dr. O'Donnell* seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m.