

**Health Research Advisory Committee
Health and Welfare Building, Room 129
625 Forster Street
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania**

**November 30, 2017
9:00 AM to 11:00 AM**

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

In person

- Rachel Levine, MD, Acting Secretary of Health and Chair of the Committee, Pennsylvania Department of Health

Via WebEx

- Karen Wolk Feinstein, PhD, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Jewish Healthcare Foundation and Pittsburgh Regional Health Initiative
- 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
- Peter Tombros, MBA, Professor and Distinguished Executive in Residence, Eberly College of Science BS/MBA Program, Penn State University
- Donna Gentile O'Donnell, PhD, Special Assistant to the President and Senior Vice President of Innovation Programs and Partnerships, Thomas Jefferson 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

Absent

- Pat Vance, retired Senator, having represented the 31st State Senatorial District
- 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
- Sarah Boateng, Executive Deputy Secretary
- Penny E. Harris, M.Ed., CAC, LPC, Director, Health Research Office
- Susan Guy, Program Analyst, Health Research Office
- Chris Albright, Administrative Officer, Health Research Office

Others in attendance

- Mary M. Keenan, Webber Associates, representing Wistar
- John Anthony, Pennsylvania State University
- Chris Moyer, Cameron Companies, representing Fox Chase
- Matthew Fine, Buchanan, Ingersoll & Rooney

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➤ *Welcome and introductions*

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

Acting Secretary Levine noted the primary purpose of the meeting was to bring members up to date on the status of the CURE funds as known and to decide on the formula and non-formula priority(ies) for SFY 2018-19.

➤ *Review and approval of May 9, 2017, minutes*

Dr. Arthur Levine moved to accept the minutes.

Dr. O'Donnell seconded the motion.

No oppositions or abstentions.

The motion passed unanimously.

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

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

Acting Secretary Levine provided the understanding held by the DOH regarding the use of Tobacco Settlement funds as they relate to the budget deficit. Essentially, the Commonwealth will borrow against future Tobacco Settlement Funds to solve the current deficit. It is anticipated this should have no impact on funding for the tobacco programs for this year or next.

Dr. O'Donnell asked for an elaboration on the nature of the securitization. The question was raised whether the securitization would extend across both formula and non-formula funding streams or whether it would impact one versus the other. *Dr. Hughes* responded that additional information is not available at this time; DOH does not have additional details about how the securitization would be distributed

Dr. Art Levine shared that he had heard that 2/3 of Tobacco Settlement Act money would be securitized and therefore appropriately allocated for research and that 1/3 would not be and made up with other state funds as the strategy for years after the next fiscal year.

Acting Secretary Levine stated that level of information had not been provided and will take it back to the Governor's Policy Office and Budget Office for confirmation. The concern of sustaining commitments beyond next fiscal year is a high priority.

➤ *Discussion of research priorities for Formula funds for State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2018-19*

Motion for setting priorities for SFY 2018-19 Formula funds

Acting Secretary Levine 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. Masucci moved that the research priorities for formula grants remain as identified in the legislation.

Dr. Parmacek seconded the motion.

**Health Research Advisory Committee
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Dr. O'Donnell requested an abstention. She requested a longer conversation about the original legislative intent going back to the creation of CURE. *Dr. O'Donnell* asked to meet with Dr. Rachel Levine, Sarah Boateng, and Dr. Hughes to begin this conversation.

No oppositions.

The motion passed with 6 of 7 approving.

➤ *Update on SFY 2015-16 and SFY 2016-17 Non-formula funding priorities*

Acting Secretary Levine 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. Subsequently, the Governor's Budget Office recommended DOH use the funds from 2016-17 and 2017-18, the current fiscal year, for the already approved non-formula applications. The 2015-16 funds were returned to the Tobacco Settlement Fund.

Dr. Masucci requested clarification about the return of the 2015-16 funds to the Tobacco Settlement Fund and whether they'd be available for future use by the program. *Dr. Hughes* stated the program will follow up on this inquiry.

➤ *Finalization of Research Priorities for Non-formula Funds for State Fiscal Year 2018-19*

Acting Secretary Levine reviewed with the members the two funding categories in Act 77 of "Clinical research and Health Services research" and "Other research." "Other research" would include biomedical research. In the past, the two funding categories have been combined by the Committee to enhance flexibility.

Motion for Non-formula research categories

Acting Secretary Levine 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. Masucci seconded the motion.

No oppositions or abstentions.

The motion passed unanimously.

Acting Secretary Levine summarized the status of the non-formula priority. The Committee reviewed three white papers and recommended they be combined into one white paper. The consolidated paper was forwarded to the membership and each member picked his/her top two recommendations.

Based on the responses, the research priority entitled "*Research related to improving health care delivery systems, including the role that precision medicine, data analytics, telehealth, and advancements may have on mitigating the opioid crisis in PA*" received the most votes by the membership.

Acting Secretary Levine clarified that the decision before the committee for the 2018-19 priority is to decide whether to use the previously identified priority or to go through the process of identifying a new priority.

Dr. Art Levine initiated moving forward with the identified priority. This was supported by Dr. Masucci and Dr. O'Donnell.

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The discussion turned to the areas to be included in the identified priority. Particularly, *Dr. Art Levine* requested an emphasis on prevention within the priority to address why people become addicted. This inclusion in the scope was challenged by *Dr. Masucci* who added that the original compilation included prevention-oriented questions that were not selected as the top choice. *Dr. O'Donnell* raised the question of how telehealth would function as prevention rather than as an intermediary with people in crisis. She noted that mitigating the current crisis requires not only prevention but also intervention. *Dr. Masucci* reminded the committee that the preamble prior to the research options adequately describes the breadth of concerns around opioid use and opioid deaths.

Dr. Hughes summarized the comments. There is general support from the committee to continue with this priority for 2018-19 and to ensure flexibility regarding prevention and mitigation of the crisis. Staff can pull the preamble and language agreed to by the committee and circulate it for review.

Acting Secretary Levine called for a motion to continue with the identified priority for SFY 2018-19.

Dr. Arthur Levine so moved.
Dr. Masucci seconded the motion.
No oppositions or abstentions.
The motion passed unanimously.

➤ *Closing remarks and next steps/schedule for remainder of 2017 and 2018*

Acting Secretary Levine asked if there were any questions from the guests in attendance.

Acting Secretary Levine expressed her gratitude for the service of the Committee members' ideas, input, and time.

➤ *Meeting adjourns*

Acting Secretary Levine called for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Dr. Masucci so moved.
Dr. O'Donnell seconded the motion.
No oppositions or abstentions.
The motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 9:45 a.m.