

Meeting Logistics

Item	Description
Date	April 21, 2020
Time	10:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.
Location	Call-in Only
Purpose/Focus	Health Research Advisory Committee (HRAC) meeting
Notetaker	Sarah LaMaster, Court Reporter, Sargent's Court Reporting Services, Inc. and Health Research Office staff, Pennsylvania Department of Health

Attendees

HRAC Members:

In Attendance

- Sarah Boateng, MHA, Executive Deputy Secretary, Chair's designee, Pennsylvania Department of Health
- Dwight Davis, MD, Professor of Medicine and Medical Director, Cardiac Rehabilitation Program, Pennsylvania State University School of Medicine
- 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
- 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; Professor, Department of Geography and Urban Studies; Director, Information Technology and Society Research Group, Temple University

Not in Attendance

- Peter Tombros, MBA, Professor and Distinguished Executive in Residence, Eberly College of Science BS/MBA Program, Penn State University
- Pat Vance, retired PA state Senator, having represented the 31st State Senatorial District

Department of Health Staff Present:

- Sarah Boateng, Executive Deputy Secretary, sitting in for Rachel Levine, MD, Secretary of Health and Chair of the Committee, Pennsylvania Department of Health
- Meghna Patel, MHA, Deputy Secretary for Health Innovation
- Penny E. Harris, M.Ed., CAC, LPC, Director, Health Research Office
- Susan Guy, Public Health Program Administrator, Health Research Office
- Chris Albright, Administrative Officer, Health Research Office
- Pamela Brown, Management Technician, Health Research Office
- Emily Rousset, Executive Assistant to Deputy Secretary Meghna Patel
- Keith Fickel, Esq., Senior Counsel, Office of Legal Counsel

Others in attendance:

- Maggie McDonald, PhD, Office of Academic Affairs, Health Science, University of Pittsburgh
- Janet Kile, Oak Ridge Associated Universities in Oak Ridge, Tennessee

Agenda

ID	Description	Owner	Time
1	Welcome and COVID-19 Update	Dr. Rachel Levine, Secretary	10:30 am – 10:40 am
2	Introductions and Review Agenda	Sarah Boateng, Executive Deputy Secretary	10:40 am – 10:45 am
3	Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes	Sarah Boateng	10:45 am – 10:50 am
4	Review of the CURE Program and Updates a) Budget update b) Alzheimer’s RFA update c) Biology of Aging RFA update d) Formula and Non-formula priorities	Sarah Boateng	10:50 am – 11:05 am
5	FY 2021-2022 planning a) Updated public commentary submission template	Meghna Patel, Deputy Secretary for Health Innovation	11:05 am – 11:25 am
6	Open Discussion	All attendees	11:25 am – 11:45 am
7	Closing and Next Steps	Sarah Boateng	11:45 am – 12:00 pm

Discussion

ID	Discussion
1	<i>Dr. Rachel Levine, Secretary of Health</i> , was not present for this meeting. <i>Sarah Boateng, Executive Deputy Secretary</i> , chaired this meeting in <i>Dr. Rachel Levine's</i> place.
2	<i>Sarah Boateng, Executive Deputy Secretary</i> , introduced herself. Committee members, Public attendees, and DOH staff introduced themselves. Attendees were made aware a stenographer was present for record keeping, and to ensure minutes accurately reflect the actions and recommendations made by the Committee.
3	<i>Dr. O'Donnell</i> moved to accept the meeting minutes of January 16, 2020. <i>Dr. Parmacek</i> second. No discussion. No opposition or abstentions. The motion passed unanimously.
4	<p><i>Executive Deputy Secretary Boateng</i> provided a review of the CURE Program and updates.</p> <p>Budget update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The State Fiscal Year 2019-2020 amount has not been updated since the prior meeting. It remains at the estimated \$45,774,000. • The amount for the 2019-2020 CURE non-formula Alzheimer's Disease priority is \$10,946,507. <p>Alzheimer's RFA update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Alzheimer peer review panel convened to review 6 proposals on March 17, 2020 via conference call. • Due to the current COVID-19 crisis, the initiation of a DOH Final Review Committee is stalled. We are discussing an alternative and how we can continue this review within the HRO and Innovation deputate to avoid delays. • DOH will share the draft recommendation memo prepared for the Secretary with the Committee when it is complete. Once we have Committee's review of the recommendation memo, we will share it with Secretary for approval. • The grant term per the Request for Application will start June 1, 2020. This start date will be revisited considering COVID-19 when the proposals are in the negotiation process. <p>Biology of Aging RFA update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Biology of Aging RFA using SFY 2020-2021 funds is under review and scheduled to be submitted to Procurement by the beginning of May for contract and legal review before finalizing and posting to the Department of General Services website. • Estimated timeline of posting the RFA for Biology of Aging is early July 2020 with a submission date of mid-September 2020. Due to the current COVID-19 circumstances, these dates may change but our goal is to stay on track. <p>Formula and Non-formula priorities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the January meeting, the decision was made to maintain the research priorities for formula funds for 2021-2022 the same as in prior years as clinical, health services, and/or biomedical research as defined by the Act. • In the January meeting the Committee recommended combining the two non-formula funding categories of clinical and health services research and other research for the 2021-2022 State Fiscal Year. At least 50 percent of the funds must be spent on clinical research and/or health services research.

5	<p><i>Meghna Patel</i> provided updates on future planning for Fiscal Year 2021-2022.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ At the January meeting the decision was made to continue to obtain public comments for research priority topics. Extensions to the deadline would be publicly posted, and the process of asking for presentations from submitters is removed. ▪ In February, a discussion call was held for the Committee to discuss the public commentary process. The Committee discussed a process and had an opportunity to review a public commentary submission application. The revised public commentary process: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Health Research Office will post a notification on the Department of Health CURE website seeking recommendations for health research priorities in PA in a form of a white paper – Post it end of April 2020 ▪ HRO will collect feedback for the next 45 days – by June 15, 2020 ▪ HRO then submits white papers to HRAC members by June 22, 2020 ▪ HRAC members will discuss the recommended topics at the tentative July 14, 2020 meeting. If HRAC members like the submissions and finalize a topic, pursue the standard process of recommending a topic to the Secretary and draft few paragraphs that will be included in the Request for Application (RFA). If HRAC members do not like the submissions and want to pursue more public input, the date will be extended to August 31, 2020. ▪ HRO will compile and send the submissions to HRAC members by September 7, 2020. ▪ HRAC members will discuss the topics again at October 2020 meeting and finalize a topic. ▪ This timeline and process will give enough time for HRO to prepare RFA, post and seek proposals for the future State Fiscal Year funding <p><i>Dr. Masucci</i> moved to accept the template and process for public commentary. <i>Dr. Art Levine</i> second. No discussion. No opposition or abstentions. The motion passed unanimously.</p>
6	<p><i>Executive Deputy Secretary Boateng</i> provided an update on the Spinal Cord Research Advisory Committee.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SCRAC had their second meeting last week and identified a Chair. • Members discussed the structure of their funding, application criteria, and evaluation process. <p><i>Dr. Art Levine</i> raised concerns over the January meeting minutes not accurately reflecting the concerns and discomfort over the decision to sequester some of the settlement money for spinal cord injury research, and HRAC members not having the opportunity to weigh in on that decision. <i>Dr. O'Donnell</i> referred to a bullet point in the meeting minutes reflecting her motion and <i>Dr. Art Levine's</i> second -- regarding the concerns of SCRAC and keeping HRAC members informed on changes effecting HRAC.</p> <p><i>Meghna Patel</i> referred to the September 2019 meeting; HRAC members will be made aware of any amendments to Tobacco Settlement Funds Act.</p> <p><i>Dr. O'Donnell</i> moved to formally acknowledge the work of Secretary Levine and the Department during this challenging time. <i>Dr. Art Levine</i> second. No discussion. No opposition or abstentions. The motion passed unanimously.</p>
7	<p><i>Executive Deputy Secretary Boateng</i> expressed appreciation for the Committee's time and participation. <i>Executive Deputy Secretary Boateng</i> made a motion to adjourn. <i>Dr. Levine</i> motion moved. <i>Dr. Davis</i> second. No discussion. No opposition or abstentions. The motion passed unanimously. Meeting was adjourned.</p>