

## Meeting Logistics

Item	Description
Date	August 24, 2020
Time	11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Location	Call-in Only
Purpose/Focus	Health Research Advisory Committee (HRAC) meeting
Notetaker	Evan Bingaman, Court Reporter, Sargent’s Court Reporting Services, Inc. and Health Research Office staff, Pennsylvania Department of Health

## Attendees

### HRAC Members:

#### In Attendance

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

#### Not In Attendance

- 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

### Department of Health Staff Present:

- Meghna Patel, MHA, Deputy Secretary for Health Innovation
- Penny E. Harris, M.Ed., CAC, LPC, Director, Health Research Office
- Christopher Albright, Administrative Officer, Health Research Office
- Pamela Brown, Management Technician, Health Research Office
- Emily Roussel, Executive Assistant to Deputy Secretary Meghna Patel
- Keith Fickel, Esq., Senior Counsel, Office of Legal Counsel

## Agenda

ID	Description	Owner	Time
1	Welcome and Introductions	Dr. Rachel Levine, Secretary	11:00 am – 11:10 am
2	Overview	Dr. Rachel Levine, Secretary	11:10 am – 11:15 am
3	Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes	Dr. Rachel Levine, Secretary	11:15 am – 11:20 am
4	Identification of the Non-formula Funds Priority for State Fiscal Year 2020-2021	Dr. Rachel Levine, Secretary	11:15 am – 11:45 am
5	Open Discussion	Dr. Rachel Levine, Secretary	11:45 am – 11:55 am
6	Closing and Next Steps	Dr. Rachel Levine, Secretary	11:55 am – 12:00 pm

**Discussion**

<b>ID</b>	<b>Discussion</b>
1	<i>Dr. Rachel Levine, Secretary of Health</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.
2	<i>Dr. Rachel Levine</i> stated the purpose of today's meeting is to discuss the update of the priority for SFY 2020-2021 and finalize the narrative for the RFA.

3 *Dr. O'Donnell* moved to accept the meeting minutes of July 14, 2020. *Dr. Davis* second. No discussion. No opposition or abstentions. The motion passed unanimously.

*Dr. Rachel Levine* made committee members aware the April 21, 2020, meeting was not fully Sunshine. There are two actions that were taken by the members and the materials were approved but members will need to affirm those.

*Dr. Art Levine* moved to accept the meeting minutes of January 16, 2020. *Mr. Tombros* second. No discussion. No opposition or abstentions. The motion passed unanimously.

*Dr. Art Levine* moved to approve the April 21, 2020, public commentary document. *Dr. Davis* Second. No discussion. No opposition or abstentions. The motion passed unanimously.

*Dr. Rachel Levine* provided an update on COVID-19.

- Increase of 426 cases that would put us at 129,474 cases for COVID-19, and 7,579 deaths.
- According to DOH metrics, 81% have recovered.
- 501 patients in the hospital; 75 on a ventilator, which is 15 percent.
- Containment efforts:
  - Expanding testing with almost 23,000 tests per day.
  - Michael Huff has been hired by the Governor to serve as the Governor's liaison for testing and contract tracing. DOH is working closely with Mr. Huff to expand testing and contract tracing.
  - DOH is working to hire 75 more public health nurses. We currently have over 1,000 contact tracers with a goal of well over 3,000 contact tracers.
- Targeted mitigation efforts in place:
  - Closure of nonfood serving bars, nightclubs
  - Keeping restaurant capacity to 25 percent
  - Keeping indoor gathers to 25 people, and outdoor gathers to 250 people
  - Opening of schools is up to the different school districts and superintendents
  - Governor recommended sports not proceed, but PIAA has chosen not to accept that recommendation and are allowing sports to proceed
  - Every patient and every staff member in every nursing home has been tested and we are currently working on retesting protocols
  - Every patient and every staff member in other long-term care facility regulated by DHS will be tested with retesting protocols
- Only during the third stage testing will a vaccine be approved

*Dr. Art Levine, Dr. O'Donnell* asked *Dr. Rachel Levine* to comment on testing developments and broadly on how the accuracy of testing is improving across the Commonwealth, respectively. *Dr. Rachel Levine* provided the following:

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- Rapid antigen testing – testing supplies population-based testing do not exist. Being sent 1-2 antigen test kits to every nursing home. Concern of enough tests. Governor arrangements with OraSure for rapid-based antigen test simple nasal nares swab. Hopeful for enough antigen kits.
- COVID-19 app – depends on whether enough people sign up, robust marketing plan
- Hospitals, health systems, commercial labs; Rite Aid, Walgreens, CVS, Wal-Mart, et cetera, they are predominantly sending their testing to main commercial laboratories LabCorp and Quest.
- PCR tests should have sensitivity and specificity of 90 percent, probably 99 to 100 percent. Confidence in positive tests. Number of false positives should be low; never going to be zero.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Challenges with non-FDA approved, non-CLIA approved testing that marketed themselves to companies or nursing homes. Directed all the nursing homes and long-term care living facilities to FDA approved, CLIA approved testing, platforms, and laboratories.</li> <li>Antigen tests should have good specificity, concerned whether there are going to be way more false negatives, which will be a challenge.</li> <li>Testing challenges are lag time and a shortage of chemicals. DOH is advocating for PA and reaching out to federal delegation.</li> </ul>
4	<p><u>STATE FISCAL YEAR 2020-2021</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>During the July 14, 2020, meeting the discussion of the submitted topics led to exploring changing the 2020-2021 priority from Biology of Aging to a COVID-19 related priority.</li> <li>There is no legal restriction on changing the SFY 2020-2021 priority.</li> <li>Just as a reminder, we have tentatively \$11M for the Non-formula SFY 2020-2021 priority.</li> </ul> <p><i>Dr. O'Donnell</i> made a motion to change the 2020-2021 priority from biology of aging to COVID-19. <i>Dr. Davis</i> Second. No discussion. <i>Dr. Rachel Levine</i> called for a vote to make the 2020-2021 non-formula health research priority COVID-19 related. Ayes respond. No opposition or abstentions. The motion passed unanimously.</p> <p><i>Dr. Art Levine</i> made a motion to make 2021-2022 priority biology of aging. <i>Dr. Masucci</i> Second. No discussion. <i>Dr. Rachel Levine</i> called for a vote to have the 2021-2022 non-formula health research priority be biology of aging. Ayes respond. No opposition or abstentions. The motion passed unanimously.</p> <p><i>Dr. Masucci</i> presented her draft version of the COVID-19 priority. Discussion focused on keeping a broad focus in the request, vaccine regarding immunization and efficacy, and timing of funds. <i>Dr. Art Levine</i> made a motion to accept the draft <i>Dr. Masucci</i> has offered and that it can be fine-tuned by the Department to format and legal requirements. Between ORAU and the Department, the selection will be a grant or grants that are most relevant and pressing at that point in time. <i>Dr. Masucci</i> qualified the motion that there was a need of a statement or two to be added to bullet point two. <i>Dr. O'Donnell</i> Second. Discussion included the process of deciding on the broad topic with the peer review process and the Department supporting the most critical thing to be done at the time. <i>Dr. Rachel Levine</i> called for a vote. No opposition or abstentions. The motion passed unanimously.</p>
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Next meeting of the Spinal Cord Research Advisory Committee is Wednesday, October 15, 2020, from 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. <b>Correction noted: SCRAC meeting is Wednesday, October 14, 2020</b></li> <li><i>Dr. Art Levine</i> asked about expediting the funds. <i>Meghna Patel</i> said the money for 2020-2021 fiscal year would be made available in April of next year. <i>Penny Harris</i> confirmed.</li> <li>Next Health Research Advisory Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, October 6, 2020, from 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.</li> </ul>
6	<p><i>Dr. Rachel Levine, Secretary of Health</i>, expressed appreciation for the Committee's time and participation <i>Dr. Rachel Levine</i> requested a motion to adjourn. <i>Dr. Davis</i> moved. <i>Dr. O'Donnell</i> second. Ayes respond. No opposition or abstentions. The motion passed unanimously. Meeting was adjourned.</p>