

## Meeting Logistics

Item	Description
Date	Monday, August 23, 2021
Time	10:00 AM to 11:30 AM
Location	Call-in only Public call-in for listen only
Purpose/Focus	Health Research Advisory Committee meeting – public
Notetaker	Health Research Office Staff Sargents stenographer
Call-in and Skype	<p><b>Microsoft Teams meeting</b></p> <p><a href="#">Click here to join the meeting</a></p> <p><b>Or call in (audio only)</b></p> <p><a href="#">+1 267-332-8737</a></p> <p>Phone Conference ID: 545 844 262#</p>

## Attendees

### HRAC Members:

#### In Attendance

- Jared Shinabery, MHA, Deputy Secretary for Health Innovation, Acting Chair, Pennsylvania Department of Health
- Dwight Davis, MD, Professor of Medicine and Medical Director, Cardiac Rehabilitation Program, Pennsylvania State University College of Medicine
- Karen Wolk Feinstein, PhD, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Jewish Healthcare Foundation and Pittsburgh Regional Health Initiative
- Donna Gentile O'Donnell, PhD, Special Assistant to the President and Senior Vice President of Innovation Programs and Partnerships, Thomas Jefferson University
- Peter Tombros, MBA, Chairman of the Board of New XL, which is a new neurosciences company
- Anantha Shekhar, MD PhD, Senior Vice Chancellor for Health Sciences and Dean of the School of Medicine, University of Pittsburgh
- Pat Vance, RN, retired PA state Senator, having represented the 31st State Senatorial District
- 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

- 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:

- 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
- Keith Fickel, Senior Counsel, Chief Counsel's Office

#### Public in Attendance:

- Margaret McDonald, Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic and Global Affairs, Health

Sciences, University of Pittsburgh

- Ben Dannels, Associate with Greenlee Partner
- Michael Smith, Director of Commonwealth Relationships for the University of Pennsylvania
- Mary Keenan, Weber Associates on behalf of Wistar Institute
- Janet Kile, Project Manager with Oak Ridge Associated Universities (ORAU)
- Stephanie Sherwood, Project Manager with ORAU
- Ann Hart, Bravo Group
- Beth Brelje, Epoch Times
- Erin O’Dea, Representative Dan Frankel’s Office
- Karen Schoelles, Vice President for Public Health and Government Contracting at ECRI
- Christopher Beck, DeBrunner & Associates

**Agenda**

<b>ID</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Owner</b>	<b>Time</b>
1	Welcome and Introductions	<i>Deputy Secretary Jared Shinabery</i>	10:00 am – 10:10 am
2	Overview and COVID-19 Update	<i>Deputy Secretary Jared Shinabery</i>	10:10 am – 10:20 am
3	Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes	<i>Deputy Secretary Jared Shinabery</i>	10:20 am – 10:25 am
4	Review of the CURE Program and Updates a) 2020 COVID-19 RFA update	<i>Deputy Secretary Jared Shinabery</i>	10:25 am – 10:35 am
5	Non-formula Funds Priority 2021-2022	<i>Deputy Secretary Jared Shinabery</i>	10:35 am – 11:05 am
6	Open Discussion	<i>Deputy Secretary Jared Shinabery</i>	11:05 am – 11:20 am
7	Public Comments and Questions	<i>Deputy Secretary Jared Shinabery</i>	11:20 am – 11:25 am
8	Closing and Next Steps	<i>Deputy Secretary Jared Shinabery</i>	11:25 am – 11:30 am

## Discussion

ID	Discussion
1	<p><i>Jared Shinabery, Deputy Secretary for Health Resources and Services, greeted Committee members , introduced himself. Committee members, DOH staff and Public attendees 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.</i></p>
2	<p><i>Jared Shinabery stated the purpose of today’s meeting is to:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review and approve the minutes of the meeting held on July 12, 2021,</li> <li>• Provide an update on CURE funds and RFAs pending, and</li> <li>• SFY 2021-2022 non-formula priority topic</li> </ul>
3	<p><i>Dr. Shekhar moved to accept the meeting minutes of July 12, 2021. Dr. Davis raised concerns with the lack of detail regarding funding for the Biology of Aging, the committee had approved a priority that was now unfunded, limitations for eligible entities for the pediatric cancer priority, and the 25% funding listed for a large and bland identification of a specific research priority. Dr. Davis moved to edit the minutes to reflect the concerns and to provide updated minutes for approval at the next meeting. Mr. Tombros second. No discussion. Dr. O’Donnell abstained as she wasn’t at the meeting.</i></p>
4	<p><i>Jared Shinabery provided a review of the CURE program and other updates.</i></p> <p><u>COVID-19 RFA UPDATE</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The COVID-19 RFA recommendation for awardees was in the approval process with the Department’s Procurement Office for final review and approval.</li> <li>• The final amount available for the COVID-19 priority was <b>\$11,562,114</b>. Each awardee received less than \$4M. 1<sup>st</sup> ranked received \$3,963,531; 2<sup>nd</sup> ranked received \$3,963,531; and 3<sup>rd</sup> ranked received \$3,635,052.</li> </ul>
5	<p><i>Jared Shinabery reminded the Committee that during the July 12<sup>th</sup> meeting, the members voted to have the research priorities for the SFY2022-2023 formula funds remain the same as in prior years which were clinical, health services and/or biomedical research as defined by the Act.</i></p>

6 *Jared Shinabery* reviewed the discussion during the July meeting Act 24, 2021-2022 Fiscal Code, amending the Fiscal Code, was submitted to the House, and amended by the Senate and signed by the Governor on June 30, 2021. The most recent version on page 62 indicated where the changes were made to the 30% non-formula funding; he recapped.

- \$1M remains for Spinal Cord Injury Research with the remaining
- 75% for Pediatric Cancer Research for institutions equipped and actively conducting pediatric cancer research. No more than \$2.5M in a fiscal year can be provided to a given pediatric cancer research institution. Any institutions that are “equipped and actively conducting” pediatric cancer research will be eligible to submit a Request for Application. The eligibility has been clarified with funding up to \$4M for four years.
- 25% for capital and equipment grants to be allocated “to entities engaging in biotechnology research, including entities engaging in regenerative medicine research, regenerative medicine medical technology research, hepatitis and viral research, drug research and clinical trials related to cancer, research relating to pulmonary embolism and deep vein thrombosis, genetic and molecular research for disease identification and eradication, vaccine immune response diagnostics, nanotechnology research and the commercialization of applied research.” This is a direct quote from the Fiscal Code with the maximum amount in the Request for Application at \$2M for four years.
- Department’s Legal counsel addressed identifying the Fiscal Code as an annual process that takes pieces of various legislation and changes them for a particular year. The passage of the Fiscal Code is a passage of a law that would supersede the Tobacco Settlement Act.
- There are no funds for the Biology of Aging research priority.

*Dr. O’Donnell* moved for open discussion in order to receive comment on the background of the Fiscal Code. *Dr. Davis* provided a second. Roll called with no opposition or abstentions. Motion passed.

*Keith Fickel*, Legal Counsel, confirmed that similar to the other legislative member who pushed the spinal cord issue, the Fiscal Code was driven by a particular member and does not recall the name.

*Dr. Davis* reviewed the scientifically directed process of thinking about issues that affect populations in the state of Pennsylvania that were well-funded that would enhance the health of the Commonwealth with a healthy discussion each year.

*Dr. Masucci* identified few sources funding science, identifying a big part of what the committee does is to go back to our institutions of research to make sure that a priority is something we can actually do and do at a very high degree of excellence on behalf of the Commonwealth.

*Senator Vance* raised the concern of intervening prior to becoming law and will look into the process that occurred with the Fiscal Code.

The members requested the Department provide:

- The bill number for the Fiscal Code
- *Dr. O’Donnell* moved that the committee draft a letter to the Governor and the legislative leadership about the concerns of the committee. *Dr. Davis* second. Roll called with no opposition or abstentions. Motion passed. *Dr. O’Donnell* requested for the Department to provide the language of the bill to be cited and attached to the letter. She would work with *Senator Vance* on the draft of the letter. The name of the legislative liaison for the Department was provided.
- *Dr. Masucci* recommended the committee continue with the responsibility to draft the language for the priorities to gain the best scientific opportunity.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Dr. Davis</i> summarized the plan to talk to constituents about language for the two areas then meet in an executive session for developing an approach to move forward. <i>Dr. Masucci</i> clarified the plan to draft language informally with an executive committee to review.</li> </ul>
7	<i>Jared Shinabery</i> noted the date of the next meeting as Monday, October 4 <sup>th</sup> from 10 to 11:30 AM. <i>Dr. Masucci</i> recommended meeting in a month for the executive committee review of the language.
8	<i>Jared Shinabery</i> expressed appreciation for the Committee's guidance, ideas, and discussion with Secretary Beam. He requested a motion to adjourn. <i>Dr. Davis</i> moved to accept the motion. <i>Dr. Masucci</i> second. Roll called. No opposition or abstentions. The motion passed unanimously. Meeting was adjourned at 11.26 am.