

Meeting Logistics

Item	Health Research Advisory Committee (HRAC)
Date	September 12, 2019
Time	9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Location	Health and Welfare Building, 625 Forster St, Room 129, Harrisburg PA
Purpose/Focus	Review the work of the Committee and planning for SFY 2020-2021 non-formula priorities
Notetaker	Lindsey Dean Richardson, Court Reporter, Sargent’s Court Reporting Services, Inc. and Health Research Office Staff, Pennsylvania Department of Health

Attendees

HRAC Members:

- 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

Via telephone:

- Donna Gentile O’Donnell, PhD, Special Assistant to the President and Senior Vice President of Innovation Programs and Partnerships, Thomas Jefferson University
- Karen Wolk Feinstein, PhD, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Jewish Healthcare Foundation and Pittsburgh Regional Health Initiative
- 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 PA state Senator, having represented the 31st State Senatorial District
- Peter Tombros, MBA, Professor and Distinguished Executive in Residence, Eberly College of Science BS/MBA Program, Penn State University
- Arthur Levine, MD, Senior Vice Chancellor for Health Sciences and Dean of the School of Medicine, University of Pittsburgh
- Michele Masucci, PhD, Vice President for Research; Professor, Department of Geography and Urban Studies; Director, Information Technology and Society Research Group, Temple University

Others Present:

Department of Health (DOH) staff

- Sarah Boateng, MHA, Executive Deputy Secretary
- Meghna Patel, MHA, Deputy Secretary for Health Innovation
- Penny E. Harris, M.Ed., CAC, LPC, Director, Health Research Office, DOH
- Keith Fickel, Esq., Senior Counsel, Office of Legal Counsel, DOH
- Chris Albright, Administrative Officer, Health Research Office
- Pamela Brown, Management Technician, Health Research Office
- Meaghan Abbott, Director of Intergovernmental Affairs, DOH
- Daniel Hull, Administrative Officer, DOH
- Sarah Kurish, Office of Legal Counsel, DOH
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Others in attendance:

- Deborah F. Kelly, PhD, Professor of Biomedical Engineering, Center for Structural Oncology, Pennsylvania State University – PRESENTER of “Outsmarting Cancer Cells”
- Cameron Varano, faculty member, Center for Structural Oncology, Pennsylvania State University

- Maggie McDonald, PhD, Office of Academic Affairs, Health Science, University of Pittsburgh
- John Anthony, Pennsylvania State University
- Michael Smith, University of Pennsylvania
- Alison M. Buttenheim, PhD, MBA, Associate Professor of Nursing and Health Policy, Center for Health Incentives and Behavior Economics, University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing – PRESENTER of “Innovations to increase vaccine coverage and reduce vaccine-preventable disease burden in Pennsylvania”
- Penny Kris-Etherton, PhD, RDN, Department of Nutritional Sciences, Pennsylvania State University – PRESENTER of “Prevention and Management of Cardiometabolic Diseases using Team-Based Science”
- Santhosh Girirajan, MBBS, PhD, Associate Professor of Genomics, Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, Pennsylvania State University – PRESENTER of “A case for funding autism research in Pennsylvania”
- Benjamin Dannels, Greenlee Partners
- Mary Anne Botte, Webber Associates
- Xuemei Huang, MD, PhD, University Distinguished Professor of Neurology, Pharmacology, Neurosurgery, Radiology & Kinesiology, Associate Dean for Physician-Scientist Development, Director – Translational Brain Research Center, Pennsylvania State University – Milton S. Hershey Medical Center – PRESENTER of “Genes, Environment and Age-related Chronic Disease”
- Charles Alcorn, private citizen
- Mylynda Massart, MD, PhD, Primary Care Precision Medicine, Department of Family Medicine, University of Pittsburgh/UPMC – PRESENTER of “Pharmacogenomic Testing to Improve Medication Outcomes in Pennsylvania”
- Philip Empey, PhD, PharmD, Institute for Precision Medicine, School of Pharmacy, Department of Pharmacy and Therapeutics, University of Pittsburgh – PRESENTER of “Pharmacogenomic Testing to Improve Medication Outcomes in Pennsylvania”

Via telephone:

- Toren Finkel, MD, PhD, Beckwith Professor of Medicine, Director – Aging Institute of University of Pittsburgh/UPMC – PRESENTER of “Geroscience: Unlocking the secrets of aging to treat chronic disease”

Agenda

ID	Description	Owner	Time
1	Welcome and Introductions	Secretary Levine, Chair	9:00 AM
2	Review and Approval of Minutes for February 11, 2019 meeting	Secretary Levine, Chair	9:10 AM
3	Review of CURE program, priorities, types of funding and funding status	Secretary Levine, Chair	9:15 AM
4	Updates	Secretary Levine, Chair	9:20 AM
5	Presentations for the Identification of the Non-formula Funds Priority for State Fiscal Year 2020-2021	Secretary Levine, Chair	9:30 AM
6	BREAK	Secretary Levine, Chair	11:30 AM
7	Requirements and Guiding Principles for Selecting Research Priorities	Secretary Levine, Chair	11:45 AM
8	Discussion and Finalization of Research Priorities for Non-formula Funds for State Fiscal Year 2020-2021	Secretary Levine, Chair	12:00 PM
9	Closing remarks and next steps/schedule	Secretary Levine, Chair	12:55 PM

Discussion

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1	DOH staff, presenters and public attendees introduced themselves. Request by <i>Dr. O'Donnell</i> to add Oak Ridge/peer and performance review vendor to the agenda.
2	<i>Dr. Davis</i> recommendation to approve. <i>Dr. Parmacek</i> second. No discussion. No opposition or abstentions. The motion passed unanimously.
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Secretary Levine</i> provided an overview of the Tobacco Settlement Act, explaining the allocation of research funding into Formula 70%/Non-formula 30%. • Appendix A committee charter was developed and provided. • The State Fiscal Year 2019-2020 estimated amount provided by the Governor's Budget Office for CURE health research is <u>\$45,774,000</u>. • The final amount for the 2018-19 non-formula Opioid priority was \$11,434,009. The three grant proposals who will receive the award are in the final review process at the Department and all entities, award recipients and non-award recipients, that submitted proposals have been notified of their award status. • The Request for Application (RFA) for the 2019-2020 non-formula Alzheimer priority is in its final revisions. When the Alzheimer RFA has been posted, the CURE website will be updated with the link. The grant period will start June 1, 2020. • On May 17, 2019, an email was sent notifying the Committee of the location of the posting of the Request for Proposal for the peer and performance review vendor. The contract will begin on October 1, 2019. • Formula fund priorities for 2020-2021 were approved (2/11/2019) to remain clinical, health services, and/or biomedical research. • Non-formula funding categories of clinical and health services research, and other research for 2020-2021 were combined (2/11/2019).
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peer and Performance Review vendor – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Department of General Services and the DOH were in the process of reviewing the proposals for a peer and performance review vendor. Until a vendor has been finalized, no further details can be provided. <i>Dr. O'Donnell</i> acknowledged her question was addressed. • Act 2018-126 Spinal Cord Injury Research Program – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ DOH establishing the membership of the Committee. The funding amount has been identified as \$1M. • Any further changes pending in the legislature – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ DOH will keep Committee informed before a vote. As of the Committee meeting, no proposed legislation has been in the State Senate or the House of Representatives. • Appendix B high-level timeline of Formula and Non-formula grant processing was developed and provided for HRAC.

5	<p>Research priority topic concept presentations were requested by the Committee following their review of submitted topics.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Committee members requested clarification regarding the addition of two presentation submissions after the deadline. Secretary Levine shared the process of receiving a request from a Committee member and left the decision to the Committee whether to include the late submissions. The discussion was tabled to the next committee meeting to decide on the setting of deadlines. • Discussion of clarification of processing, project approvals, and Q and A regarding formula RFA 67-87 led to a separate call with Dr. Masucci and Meghna Patel, Deputy Secretary of Health Innovation for later in the day. • Presentation order: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Dr. Kris-Etherton, PSU – <i>Prevention and Management of Cardiometabolic Disease Using Team-Based Science</i> ○ Dr. Bутtenheim, UPenn – <i>Innovations to Increase Vaccine Coverage and Reduce Vaccine-preventable Disease Burden in Pennsylvania</i> ○ Dr. Huang, PSU – <i>Genes, Environment and Age-Related Chronic Disease</i> ○ Dr. Finkel, UPitt – <i>Geroscience: Unlocking the Secrets of Aging to Treat Chronic Disease</i> (via telephone) ○ Dr. Girirajan, PSU – <i>Autism</i> ○ Dr. Empey, UPitt, and Dr. Massart – <i>Pharmacogenomic Testing to Improve Medication Outcomes in Pennsylvania</i> ○ Dr. Kelly, PSU – <i>Outsmarting Cancer Cells</i> • Questions from the Committee included a request for clarification on the decision-making process. Secretary Levine stated the decision of the Committee was to decide on a concept or topic from the presentations to be used as the priority for the 2020-2021 RFA. Other questions were posed to the presenters as well as requests for bibliographies from Dr. Finkel and Dr. Empey.
6	<p>Secretary Levine reviewed Appendix C Setting Priorities. Appendix D, the Conflict of Interest policy, was highlighted by Secretary Levine in response to an inquiry made by a member in a prior meeting. Appendix E was provided to the members as a reference to all the priorities since the inception of the program.</p>

7	<p>Secretary Levine facilitated the discussion to finalize the 2020-2021 priority. Clarification was requested on funding availability at the national level for a topic, the identification of the topics and the extent of impact of the topics on Pennsylvanians. Cancer was discussed as being robustly funded at the national level. Vaccines were perceived by several members as a societal issue. Secretary Levine clarified that a pharmacology department was interested in drug development that could be part of the collaboration; however, subsidizing large pharmaceutical companies work would not be part of the collaboration. A recommendation was to look at the topics not chosen for this round to be options for the next round. The number of topics were reviewed, and the consensus was to remain with one topic to permit better quality proposals, a more defined theme and a deeper dive on a particular topic.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members moved to identifying their two topics – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Dr. Davis: Vaccine and Cancer Cells; later changed Cancer to Cardiometabolic Disease ○ Dr. Levine: Pharmacogenomic Testing and Geroscience. Dr. Levine acknowledged he submitted the two additional topics. Dr. Levine disclosed a conflict of interest as a senior author of a paper exploring the genetic variants that account for looking old when we’re young and looking young when we’re old. Dr. Levine volunteered to draft the priority. ○ Dr. Masucci: Age-Related Chronic Disease and Pharmacogenic Testing ○ Dr. O’Donnell: Pharmacogenomic Testing and Geroscience ○ Dr. Parmacek: Pharmacogenetics and Aging ○ Mr. Tombros: Geriatric-type studies and Pharmacogenic Testing ○ Senator Vance: Age-Related Chronic Disease and Pharmacogenic Testing ○ Secretary Levine: Vaccine and Pharmacogenomic Testing • A second round with a focus on either Geroscience or Pharmacogenics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Senator Vance: Geroscience ○ Mr. Tombros: Geroscience ○ Dr. Parmacek: Geroscience ○ Dr. O’Donnell: Geroscience ○ Dr. Masucci: Pharmacogenomic ○ Dr. Levine: Geroscience, the biology of aging ○ Dr. Davis: Geroscience ○ Secretary Levine: Geroscience • Decision for Geroscience with Dr. Levine creating the priority with the title “Biology of Aging” due by October 12, 2019. • Discussion regarding the timeline, lack of clarification and Q and A for the 2019 formula applications. A motion was made to extend the deadline for the submissions to the RFA from September 27, 2019 to October 11, 2019. Dr. Davis made the motion and Dr. Levine seconded. No discussion. No opposition or abstentions. The motion passed unanimously.
8	<p>Secretary Levine expressed appreciation for the Committee’s work. The next meeting will be scheduled for January 2020. A request for a motion to adjourn: Dr. Davis moved and Dr. Masucci seconded. No discussion. No opposition or abstentions. The motion passed unanimously. Meeting was adjourned.</p>