

Meeting Logistics

Item	Description
Date	July 14, 2020
Time	11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.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
- 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:

- Meghna Patel, MHA, Deputy Secretary for Health Innovation
- Penny E. Harris, M.Ed., CAC, LPC, Director, 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

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
- Jacob Chalfin, Chair of Spinal Cord Research Advisory Committee
- John Anthony, Fund Manager, Penn State University

Agenda

ID	Description	Owner	Time
1	Welcome and Introductions	Sarah Boateng, Executive Deputy Secretary	11:00 am – 11:10 am
2	Overview and COVID-19 Update	Rachel Levine, Secretary of Health	11:10 am – 11:20 am
3	Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes	Sarah Boateng, Executive Deputy Secretary	11:20 am – 11:25 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, Executive Deputy Secretary	11:25 am – 11:35 am
5	Identification of the Non-formula Funds Priority for State Fiscal Year 2021-2022	Sarah Boateng, Executive Deputy Secretary	11:35 am – 12:05 am
6	Open Discussion	Sarah Boateng, Executive Deputy Secretary	12:05 am – 12:25 am
7	Closing and Next Steps	Sarah Boateng, Executive Deputy Secretary	12:25 am – 12:30 pm

Discussion

ID	Discussion
1	<p><i>Dr. Rachel Levine, Secretary of Health</i>, was not present for the entire meeting. <i>Sarah Boateng, Executive Deputy Secretary</i>, chaired this meeting in <i>Dr. Rachel Levine's</i> place. <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.</p>
2	<p><i>Dr. Rachel Levine</i> provided an update on COVID-19.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Statewide total of 95,000 Pennsylvanians who have tested positive. • 6,900 deaths that have been attributed to COVID-19. • All the important metrics, dashboard and tables are available on the PA DOH website. • At the beginning of the pandemic there were a higher number of cases in people ages 19-49, before it spread to those over 65. We are once again seeing those types of increases. • CDC and PA DOH have developed a lot of guidance's to ensure hospitals, LTCF's, businesses, residents, etc. have public health advice. • COVID-19 may have impacted universities and research centers and that there are a lot of uncertainties. Therefore, any programmatic and funding related concerns should be directed to our Health Research Office.
3	<p><i>Mr. Tombros</i> moved to accept the meeting minutes of April 21, 2020. <i>Dr. Masucci</i> second. No discussion. No opposition or abstentions. The motion passed unanimously.</p>
4	<p><i>Executive Deputy Secretary Boateng</i> provided a review of the CURE Program and updates.</p> <p>CURE Funding and Alzheimer's RFA Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The State Fiscal Year 2019-2020 amount has been finalized as \$47,005,000. • The amount for the 2019-2020 CURE non-formula Alzheimer's Disease priority is \$11,288,807. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ As discussed in the last meeting, DOH has shared the <i>Recommendation for Alzheimer_NF Grants Summary_HRAC</i> document for the Committee's information. ○ The grant term per the Request for Application started June 1, 2020. <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 August for contract and legal review before finalizing and posting to the Department of General Services website. • As this time, our estimated timeline of posting the RFA for Biology of Aging is early October 2020 with a submission date of mid-December 2020. Due to the current COVID-19 circumstances, we were not able to stay on track of our initial plan; however, these dates provide a realistic goal. <p>Formula and Non-formula priorities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • During the January 2020 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. • For the purpose of priority setting, the Committee recommended at the January 2020 meeting 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>Identification of the Non-formula Funds Priority for State Fiscal Year 2021-2022</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Dr. Davis</i> and <i>Mr. Tombros</i> had not received the white papers in their emails for prior review. • <i>Dr. Masucci</i> made a motion to adopt COVID as a topic and swap the Biology of Aging for COVID-19 as the priority topic for 2020-2021. <i>Dr. O'Donnell</i> second. No discussion. No opposition or abstentions. The motion passed unanimously. • <i>Dr. Masucci</i> will draft a narrative for the COVID-19 priority topic and send to committee members for input. • <i>Sarah Boateng</i> and <i>Meghna Patel</i> will need a few days to discuss internally, and will get back to the committee members. • An earlier HRAC meeting will be set this summer to discuss the COVID priority topic.
6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The next meeting of the Spinal Cord Research Advisory Committee is Thursday, July 16 from 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. The call-in information is on the department website under the CURE Spinal Cord Research Advisory Committee. • <i>Meghna Patel</i> provided the definition of applicant: "Applicant." Any of the following located in this Commonwealth: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) A person. (2) An institution. (3) An entity established under the act of August 24, 1951 (P.L.1304, No.315), known as the Local Health Administration Law.
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>