

## Meeting Logistics

Item	Description
<b>Date</b>	Monday, April 19, 2021
<b>Time</b>	10:00 AM to 11:30 PM
<b>Location</b>	Call-in Only
<b>Purpose/Focus</b>	Health Research Advisory Committee meeting – public
<b>Notetaker</b>	Health Research Office Staff Sargents stenographer
<b>Call-in and Skype</b>	Microsoft Teams meeting <a href="#">Click here to join the meeting</a> Or call in (audio only) +1 267-332-8737 Conference ID: 519 729 379#

## Attendees

### HRAC Members:

#### In Attendance

- Meghna Patel, 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 School of Medicine
- Karen Wolk Feinstein, PhD, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Jewish Healthcare Foundation and Pittsburgh Regional Health Initiative
- Anantha Shekhar, MD PhD, 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
- 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
- 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

#### Not In Attendance

- Pat Vance, retired PA state Senator, having represented the 31st State Senatorial District

#### 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
- Tirzah McClinton, Program Health Program Administrator, Health Research Office
- Emily Roussel, Executive Assistant to Deputy Secretary Meghna Patel

#### Public in Attendance:

- Margaret McDonald, Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic and Global Affairs, Health Sciences, University of Pittsburgh
- Stephanie Sherwood, Section Manager, ORAU

## Agenda

ID	Description	Owner	Time
1	Welcome and Introductions	<i>Deputy Secretary Meghna Patel</i>	10:00 am – 10:10 am
2	Overview and COVID-19 Update	<i>Acting Secretary Alison Beam</i>	10:10 am – 10:20 am
3	Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes	<i>Deputy Secretary Meghna Patel</i>	10:20 am – 10:25 am
4	Review of the CURE Program and Updates a) Budget update b) 2019 Alzheimer’s RFA update c) 2020 COVID-19 RFA update	<i>Deputy Secretary Meghna Patel</i>	10:25 am – 10:35 am
5	Non-formula Funds Priority 2021-2022 and planning for 2022-2023 DOH, State Health Assessment <a href="#">PowerPoint</a>	<i>Deputy Secretary Meghna Patel</i>	10:35 am – 11:05 am
6	Open Discussion	<i>Deputy Secretary Meghna Patel</i>	11:05 am – 11:20 am
7	Public Comments and Questions	<i>Deputy Secretary Meghna Patel</i>	11:20 am – 11:25 am
8	Closing and Next Steps	<i>Deputy Secretary Meghna Patel</i>	11:25 am – 11:30 pm

## Discussion

ID	Discussion
1	<i>Acting Secretary, Alison Beam</i> , greeted Committee members and provided an update on Department efforts around COVID-19 testing and vaccinations across the state.
2	<i>Meghna Patel, Deputy Secretary</i> , introduced herself. 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.
3	<p><i>Meghna Patel</i> stated the purpose of today's meeting is to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review and approve the minutes of the meeting held on October 6, 2020,</li> <li>• Provide an update on CURE funds and RFAs pending, and</li> <li>• Confirm the SFY 2021-2022 non-formula priority topic.</li> </ul>
4	<i>Dr. O'Donnell</i> moved to accept the meeting minutes of October 6, 2020. <i>Dr Shekhar</i> second. No discussion. No opposition or abstentions. The motion passed unanimously.
5	<p><i>Meghna Patel</i> provided a review of the CURE program and other updates.</p> <p><u>BUDGET UPDATE</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Tobacco Settlement Funds have been estimated for the 2020-2021 SFY as \$44,343,000. The final amount will not be known until June or July.</li> <li>• The amount for the 2020-2021 COVID-19 priority is estimated at \$10,187,514, the remaining balance is designated for Formula funds.</li> </ul> <p><u>ALZHEIMER'S APPLICATIONS STATUS UPDATE</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The grant term per the Request for Application started June 1, 2020.</li> <li>• The final amount available for the Alzheimer priority was \$11,288,807. Each awardee received less than \$4M. 1<sup>st</sup> ranked received \$3,965,632; 2<sup>nd</sup> ranked received \$3,822,700; and 3<sup>rd</sup> ranked received \$3,500,475. This honored the rankings, the applicants' requests and utilized all of the funds.</li> <li>• The awardees have been informed that they can begin work on the research identified in their proposals.</li> <li>• <i>Penny Harris</i> reported the awardees in rank order as follows: 1<sup>st</sup>- University of Pittsburgh, Dr. Harop, 2<sup>nd</sup>- Temple, Dr. Fasotti and 3<sup>rd</sup>- University of Pennsylvania, Dr. Wolk.</li> </ul> <p><u>COVID-19 RFA UPDATE</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The COVID-19 Request for Application (RFA) recommendation for awardees has been approved by Acting Secretary Beam.</li> <li>• The proposals were peer reviewed on January 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> and the Department's Final Review Committee met on February 16<sup>th</sup> and on March 1<sup>st</sup> to assign the award amounts.</li> <li>• Negotiations with the identified awardees is the next step and will include the awardees making any requested changes as required by the peer review panels and the Department's Final Review Committee.</li> </ul>

6	<p><i>Meghna Patel</i> provided the Committee with a brief overview of Formula and Non-Formula funds, reaffirming that identifying nonformula research priorities is the main task of the HRAC.</p> <p><i>Meghna Patel</i> requested a motion to combine the two non-formula categories (clinical and health) by including this statement in the priority for SFY2022-23: “for the purpose of priority setting the research, a Health Research Advisory Committee recommends in this motion, combining the two non-formula funding categories of clinical and health services research and other research, and that at least 50 percent of the funds must be spent on clinical research or at least health services research.”</p> <p><i>Dr. Feinstein</i> moved to accept the motion. <i>Dr. Shekhar</i> second. No discussion. No opposition or abstentions. The motion passed unanimously.</p> <p>During the January 2020 meeting, committee members agreed to continue to obtain public comments for the non-formula research priority topic. At the April 2020 meeting, the process on how comments would be received was identified. The Health Research Office (HRO) will post a notice on the Department of Health website, seeking recommendations for health research priorities in Pennsylvania. Recommendations will be received in the form of a short white paper. The HRO will allow 45 days for receipt of the submissions and following this period, will forward the submissions to the HRAC for consideration.</p> <p>Upon review of the submissions, the HRAC will discuss during the July meeting. If a topic is selected, this will be recommended to the Secretary of Health and a Committee member will take the lead to draft one or two paragraphs discussing the topic. This language will be included in the the Request for Application document. If Committee members are not able to select a topic from among the submissions, they will agree to a second request for public submission with an extended deadline.</p> <p><i>Penny Harris</i> agreed to share the submission template with the Committee.</p> <p><i>Meghna Patel</i> inquired whether the Committee would want to move forward with the aforementioned process or if the preference would be to select a topic from the state health assessment which was published in January 2021. There was consensus from <i>Drs. Masucci, Parmacek, and Shekhar, and Mr. Tombros</i>, that eliciting public input on a health research priority would be a good strategy. <i>Meghna Patel</i> requested a motion to follow the same process as in the previous year for SFY2022-23, for selecting the health research priority topic. <i>Dr. Masucci</i> moved to accept the motion. <i>Dr. Parmcek</i> second. No discussion. No opposition or abstentions. The motion passed unanimously.</p> <p><i>Dr. Davis</i> inquired when the request for submissions would be posted. <i>Ms. Harris</i> and <i>Meghna Patel</i> agreed to define a date for when the notice would be posted and to share this date with the Committee via email.</p>
7	<p><i>Dr. Masucci</i> requested that the Committee be able to send a congratulatory message to Dr. Levine acknowledging her new role in the Biden administration. <i>Dr. Masucci</i> requested a motion to formally acknowledge Dr. Levine’s dedication and service to the Commonwealth and to congratulate her on her new appointment. <i>Dr. Shekhar</i> moved to accept the motion. <i>Dr. Davis</i> second. No discussion. No opposition or abstentions. The motion passed unanimously.</p> <p><i>Meghna Patel</i>, agreed to reach out to Sara Boateng to facilitate an email communication from the Committee to Dr. Levine.</p>
8	<p><i>Ms. McDonald</i> requested clarification regarding when the Biology of Aging RFA would be posted. <i>Ms. Harris</i> reported that the RFA is being finalized and that the Committee would be notified and the related link to the DGS website would be shared, once the RFA was posted.</p> <p><i>Ms. McDonald</i> also inquired whether the COVID RFA awardees had been contacted. <i>Ms. Harris</i> reported that the awardees would be contacted this week in reference to their status and the negotiation process.</p>

9 *Meghna Patel, Deputy Secretary*, expressed appreciation for the Committee’s guidance, ideas and discussion with Secretary Beam. She informed the Committee that the next meeting will be on July 12, 2021, from 10-11:30am.

*Meghna Patel*, requested a motion to adjourn. *Dr. O’Donnell* moved to accept the motion. *Dr. Davis* second. No discussion. No opposition or abstentions. The motion passed unanimously. Meeting was adjourned at 11:05am.