



INSTITUTE FOR WISCONSIN'S HEALTH INC.

WPHPBRN Steering Committee (SC) Meeting Minutes

Thursday, April 8, 2010

12 noon – 1 p.m.

Steering Committee Members Attending: Terry Brandenburg, Ron Cisler, Eric Gass, Lieske Giese, Pat Guhleman, Mary Jo Knobloch, Muriel Nagle, Paul Smith, Faye Tetzloff, Julie Willems Van Dijk, Nancy Young, Susan Zahner, Elise Papke

1. Welcome and Introductions – Elise Papke joined the call as a new member of the SC representing WPHA.

2. Project Deliverable – Research Agenda - Creating a Public Health Systems and Services Research (PHSSR) Agenda for Wisconsin focused on LHD relevant research questions

Pat Guhleman introduced this item by encouraging the SC to envision the end product of a research agenda – defining the purpose and utility of this agenda. Mary Jo Knobloch followed with a recap of how research agendas have been created/developed in other states (Round I) and emphasized the need to discuss the process. Mary Jo also asked the question of whether we survey all LHDs or just those involved in the network at this point. Discussion resulted in a consensus to first survey only network LHDs using an online survey tool. This survey would create options for the broader group of LHDs in a subsequent survey. The survey will consist of questions related to what LHDs need to know, and use answers to generate funds for projects. The SC discussed three items to be provided to LHD when surveying - a list of topics of potential interest, choices about types of projects that are feasible (such as descriptive, QI, program evaluation) and asking LHD about current research or research ideas in development or process at the local level.

3. Update on progress of LHD financing project (deliverable)

Susan Zahner reported the LHD financing project as being a quantitative analysis and having three components – reviewing finances from the mid 1990s through 2009, a survey of health departments about strategies and tactics related to the budget and decision-making, and then a few case studies. Susan also indicated that four LHDs stepped forward to assist with this project, and she is applying for additional funding through ICTR to expand the project by hiring a research assistant, providing funding for project collaborators, and purchasing consultation time.

This project will meet the deliverable of a small scale research project. Susan also mentioned meeting with other states interested in the financing questions – during the upcoming Keeneland Conference.

4. Research Inventory - Round Table

Terry Brandenburg introduced this segment as a possible “standing” item for each SC meeting. Eric Gass started the roundtable by talking about three potential projects – impact of data set integration, a process assessment of the integration of academics with LHD and exploring value added, and the impact of the Health Care Reform Bill on LHD decision-making related to prevention activities.

Julie Willems Van Dijk talked about her current work with the County Health Rankings and the next steps in creating tools to assist communities. She also discussed the link between her work and the larger model of PBRNs and public health research to practice activities.

Ron Cisler reported on the Milwaukee School Based Vaccination study. This study is a quality and process improvement project with 8-10 school-based vaccination programs. The Milwaukee Health Report related to SES was mentioned.

Elise Papke mentioned her work with qualitative case studies related to organizational learning. This is part of her PhD work at the University of Illinois.

The SC discussed keeping this “research inventory” on the agenda and also discussed how to continue to capture this information using a template or table.

5. Quick Strike Funds

Terry Brandenburg discussed the need for network readiness to respond to funding opportunities and pointed to the Quick Strike Funds as an example. Mary Jo Knobloch reported that funds are readily available for up to \$25,000 for projects ready to implement. The idea needs to be explained in a couple of paragraphs and sent to Glen Mays. He discusses the idea with the Foundation and, if the Foundation approves, Glen works with the investigator/s to refine the idea for formal application to the National Coordinating Center. This project idea must differ from the proposed financing project. The funds need to be allocated by October, with the deadline of August to submit.

Lieske Giese mentioned an evaluation project related to the Multi-State Learning Collaborative (MLC3) RWJ project. This could work as a project for Quick Strike funds, but a researcher needs to be identified to assist with this project.

6. SC Meetings

The SC decided to meet monthly for the next three months to ensure timely implementation of project deliverables. Meeting dates/times will be emailed using a meeting wizard.