

Connecticut Commission on Health Equity

Executive Committee

Chairperson
Dr. Marie Spivey
Vice-Chairperson
Glenn Cassis
Secretary
Sylvia Gafford-Alexander
Treasurer
Cathy Graves
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Dr. Helen D. Newton



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Board Meeting
April 15, 2014 Meeting Minutes
Lyceum
227 Lawrence Street
Hartford, CT 06106

Attendance

Present (Commissioners): Margaret Hynes (DPH), Stephanie Knutson (DOE), Mui-Mui Hin-McCormick (APAAC), Jose Ortiz (HHC), Stephanie Paulmeno (Public Member), Denise Smith (OHA), Marie Spivey, *Chair* (Public Member) (7 Members Present)

Non-Commissioners: Laura Bartok, Marie Burlette, Helen Newton

Absent: Glenn Cassis (APAAC), Gregory Stanton (Public), Cathy Graves (National Urban League), Colleen Gallagher (DOC), Ann Ferris (UCONN Center for Public Health), Brad Plebani (Multicultural Health Network), Christine Palm (PCSW), Marjorie Colebut Jackson (Native American Community), Sylvia Gafford-Alexander (DSS), Kristin Noelle-Hatcher (Public), Werner Oyanadel (LPRAC), Marja Hurley (UCONN), James Gatling (Public), Paul Cleary (Yale School of Public Health), Michael Williams (DCF)

1. Welcome and Opening: Chairperson Marie Spivey

- a. Meeting called to order at 12:15pm
- b. Introductions – 2 new attendees

2. Approval of Minutes

- a. Mui-Mui Hin-McCormick asked that a spelling correction be made to her last name in the minutes
- b. Stephanie Paulmeno Motioned to accept the Minutes as amended
 - i. Stephanie Knutson seconded

- ii. 5 Votes Yea
2 Abstentions (Mui-Mui Hin-McCormick, Denise Smith)
- iii. Motion passes, Minutes Approved as amended

3. Executive Director's Report

a. Audit

- i. We have sent the auditors items (meeting minutes, attendance records, etc.) from 2013 and 2012, and are still working on 2011 information
- ii. We need appointing letters for Commissioners

b. Roll out CLAS standards

- i. Working with Office of the Healthcare Advocate to do first Roll-out after contract is complete. They are very happy to be the pilot agency of the rollout in the state.
- ii. Johns Hopkins has given us a quote of \$25,000 per agency
 - 1. If we contract to do more than one agency, we can probably get a price cut
- iii. Margaret Hynes asked a number of questions about the assessment:
 - 1. asked if the instrument of Clearview 360 has been validated for state agency use
 - a. Dr. Newton said that there is a suite of tools offered, and one of the options is for a human services setting as opposed to a hospital setting.
 - 2. DPH is in the midst of their own CLAS Standards assessment, she is unsure of what added value the assessment by Johns Hopkins has and concerned with a duplication of efforts (Personal concerns of Margaret Hynes, not of the Commissioner of DPH)
 - a. Dr. Newton has communicated with Commissioner of DPH about many of these concerns
 - i. Dr. Newton answered all of the questions to the satisfaction of the Commissioner
 - b. On duplication of efforts:
 - i. CHE is Legislated to look over DPH and its activities
 - ii. It is hard for an organization to self assess, but doing so should put DPH at an advantage for an outside group to come in and assess
 - iii. Stephanie Knutson stated that she did not see this as duplication because it added a sense of consistency across all of the state agencies that we are trying to assess. It's about partnership, sharing, and working together
 - iv. Dr. Newton mentioned that this consistency is a way for the agencies to compare themselves to other agencies
- iv. Discussion on Clearview 360 tool
 - 1. Dr. Newton described what the Clearview 360 tool does and that it is the only vetted tool available to do these type of class assessments
 - 2. Marie Spivey said that this tool would help raise awareness of issues

3. Stephanie Knutson said that it was a useful way to identify gaps within an agency. The agencies work is for the people of the state, and this tool will help ensure that state agencies are following the law and providing services in ways that help the communities they serve.

c. Appointing Letters – By Laws

- i. As stated from the Audit section, we are still in need of Appointing letters

d. Budget; Appropriations Committee

- i. We're working on getting more funds allocated for the Commission on Health Equity
 1. Met with Rep. Juan Candelaria (Chair of Black and Latino Caucus)
 2. Met with Rep. Patricia Billie Miller
 3. Rep. Candelaria set up meeting with Sen. Looney
 4. Also had phone meeting with Rep. Toni Walker (Co-Chair of Appropriations)
- ii. Moving us to become a line item in the budget has been requested by Dr. Helen Newton, but that will not happen for this session.
- iii. We can't eliminate health disparities without a budget

e. Committees

- i. We need to work on revamping Committees.
- ii. Marie Spivey is trying to reach out to Commission members about filling Committee positions

4. Committee Reports

a. Public Voice Committee

- i. Still not sure who is on the Committee.
- ii. Laura Bartok (CHE Legislative Analyst) will join the Committee
- iii. Health Sabbath
 1. Stephanie Paulmeno hasn't gotten much feedback on the draft letter she sent out. There was a brief discussion to give some feedback on the letter
 2. Commissioners should send Stephanie Paulmeno any contacts for faith groups that they have. She has information for her own area, but not as much for the rest of the state.

b. Legislative Committee

- i. Laura Bartok said that the Committee had met once and had a productive meeting
 1. The committee discussed bills that were being worked on and strategy for :
 - a. HB 5537: AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH'S RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING VARIOUS REVISIONS TO THE PUBLIC HEALTH STATUTES and
 - b. HB 5457: AN ACT CONCERNING THE COLLECTION OF DATA BY HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCIES.
 2. *Laura Bartok mentioned adding minutes from that meeting to these minutes, but those minutes were not yet approved at the time this meeting happened and will not be attached.*

3. Laura Bartok mentioned a few other bills that had come up for votes in committee recently (that fit into the broad definition of health equity):
 - a. A Transportation bill (SB 235: AAC REVISIONS TO THE TRANSPORTATION STATUTES) that reclassified unpaid fares on a state owned or controlled bus from a misdemeanor to an infraction.
 - b. A Commerce bill (SB 23: AAC BENEFIT CORPORATIONS AND ENCOURAGING SOCIAL ENTERPRISE) that someone had testified on saying how the bill could be used to help community organizations further the CLAS Standards.

c. Data Committee

- i. No Report

d. Resource Development

- i. No Report

e. Policy Committee

- i. No Report – Marie Spivey is trying to establish a chair

f. Youth Committee

- i. Laura Bartok attended the last meetings of the Youth Committee
 1. Reported that the Committee is working on a study of Mental Health Services. The research will be used to direct policy initiatives that the committee may be interested in for the next legislative session.
 2. Not sure yet what the direction is of the Committee
 3. Minutes from that meeting have not been approved yet and cannot be included in these minutes

5. Next meeting: May 20, 2014 9:00 AM – 12 noon LOB

6. Adjournment

- a. Jose Ortiz Motioned to end the meeting
 - i. Mui-Mui Hin-McCormick seconded
- b. Meeting adjourned at 1:00pm