

SustiNet Board of Directors Meeting of October 28, 2009 Meeting Minutes

Board Attendees (Appointing Authorities in parentheses): *Nancy Wyman, Comptroller, co-chair; Kevin Lembo, Healthcare Advocate, co-chair; Paul Grady, Mercer (Rep. Lawrence Cafero); Norma Gyle, DPH (Governor M. Jodi Rell); Bruce Gould, AHEC (Sen. Donald Williams); Sal Luciano, Council 4 AFSCME (Rep. Christopher Donovan); Jeffrey Kramer, UConn School of Business (Rep. Denise Merrill); Joseph McDonagh, Self-Employed (Sen. Martin Looney); Jaime Mooney, Norwalk Hospital (Sen. John McKinney); Paul Lombardo for Thomas Sullivan, Insurance Commissioner, ex-officio.*

Absent: *Michael Starkowski, DSS Commissioner, ex-officio; Christine Vogel, Office of Health Care Access Commissioner, ex-officio; Robert Galvin, DPH Commissioner, ex-officio.*

SustiNet Board of Directors co-chairs, members introduced themselves. Nancy announced that she would have to exit the meeting early for personal reasons. Kevin cited that new board member, Dr. Lopez, could not make the meeting today but noted that her counterpart, Bonita Grubbs was in attendance. Kevin introduced Rev. Grubbs to the board and a brief biography was given.

Kevin struck number four on the agenda, the task force work force update, as Ellen Andrews was unavailable at the time.

Sal motioned to approve each of the last three meeting minutes. Paul Grady asked that meeting minutes reflect that the Advisory Committee Co-Chairs have the ability to alter work plans. No further changes were made. All three minutes were approved unanimously.

Kevin welcomed and introduced Andy Salner to the group. Andy introduced himself as the co-chair of the smoking cessation task force. The discussion then moved to agenda number 5, which covered the creation of the advisory committees. In order to complete this process, Kevin cited the need to agree on leadership chairs for Preventative Health Committee and the Provider Committee.

Norma Gyle did not have comment on the nomination for Preventative Health. The nominees were Mike Critelli and Cynthia Hodge. Dr Bruce Gould supported the nomination. Sal supported Mike Critelli's nomination. Norma made a motion to accept Mike Critelli, seconded by Sal. Mike's nomination was accepted unanimously. Norma made a motion to accept Cynthia Hodge's nomination, seconded by Bruce. Cynthia's nomination was accepted unanimously.

Paul Grady recommended Margaret Fllinter and Todd Staub to act as co-chairs of the Provider Committee. He gave brief bio's for both candidates. Paul made a motion that Margaret be accepted as co-chair of the committee, seconded by Bruce. Her nomination was accepted unanimously. Paul made a motion to appoint Todd Staub, seconded by Jeff Kramer. He was accepted unanimously by the Board. Before leadership could be chosen for the Equity Committee, Kevin suggested the board take more time to build potential participants.

Nancy suggested that new board members Rev. Grubbs and Dr. Lopez be liaison's to the newly created Equity Committee. The board excepted this motion unanimously.

Kevin suggested that in order to keep on schedule, the board act on the creation of the four committees by the next scheduled board meeting on November 12th. Kevin asked the co-chairs and liaisons to call through the interested party list to gauge interest and time commitments. He discussed a need to have diversity on each board and acknowledged the ambitious nature of the short time period. He asked if the board thought this timeline was reasonable.

Paul Grady noted that he would attempt to make that goal with the Provider Committee with the caveat if it cannot be accomplished, the task would be done at the next scheduled meeting.

Jeff asked for additional detail on the selection process. Kevin said that the liaisons should work with the chairs to bring the names back to the board as a whole. Jeff asked if names should be submitted in advance to the board. Kevin responded that potential names should be submitted to the board co-chairs by close of business on Monday, November 9th.

Nancy emphasized that participants should be willing to invest significant time. She asked the public to be aware that there is still time to add names to the committee lists. Kevin asked potential participants to be patient and they will be contacted.

Paul noted that it would be difficult to get names in by the 9th. Kevin asked if the board could use the 9th as a goal with the possibility of moving the deadline to the next meeting. Nancy noted that the holiday's would prove to be difficult within this timeline. Nancy offered her office to assist in making phone calls to potential participants. Kevin said that lists would be cleaned up for co-chairs and liaisons, with duplicates being erased.

Norma suggested that liaisons give the whole board a tentative list by the 9th with an absolute cut off date of the 30th. Kevin asked the board if that was an acceptable solution. The board agreed that that made sense. Kevin asked for interested participants for the newly created Equity committee.

Paul suggested that it would be helpful for committee co-chairs to send out a document that describes the duties and time commitment for committee participants. He wanted potential participants to have a common understanding of expectation.

Kevin mentioned that the room change is so co-chairs of advisory boards, who will act as ex-officio members of the board, will have adequate space. He then moved on to agenda item 6, updates on the creation of a new website devoted to Sustinet. He noted that the site will be ready to launch in next week or two. The site will have a calendar for all board committees and task forces. It will also allow interested parties to sign up for e-alerts. Kevin reminded the co-chairs and liaisons get meeting dates, time and locations in to the office. He noted that there is a general interest mailbox at sustinet.gov. where an appropriate person will be able to answer questions from the public.

Kevin mentioned the need to come up with a Sustinet logo and asked board members for assistance in that endeavor. Paul Grady suggested the logo from the Healthcare Foundation be used. Kevin said that a request is out to the Foundation to use their logo is pending.

Nancy added new business and asked if Sal had any questions. Sal mentioned that the legislation requires the executive branch agencies to give the board contacts. He asked for branch agencies for resources to assist with Sustinet goals. He also suggested that we work on accessing Federal Stimulus money. Lastly, he suggested we look at state governments capacity to request grants. Kevin asked, gubernatorial aid Chelsea, for guidance in Sal's request. She did not have comment at that time.

Kevin cited the beginning of communication regarding the cost of modeling and costing the plan. He believed it would be helpful to put together a ball park budget. Early assistance from the Foundations would be needed to assist the board.

Staff administrative assignment has been posted on DAS website. Individuals close date on 5th or 6th of November. Displaced employees will have first right to the two positions. Big picture work will have to garner more funding from the foundations.

Paul cited that the background of the plan is the state employee pool. Nancy responded that an RFP is being developed to go self insured and a decision would be made by April. Paul asked if there was flexibility for union contracts. Nancy responded that Sustinet ideas are incorporated in the state benefits plan. She noted that self insurance gives the state greater flexibility. Paul asked what the contract term would be for the new arrangement to which Nancy responded that it was two years with an extension of a third.

Kevin gauged the group on rescheduling the Stan Dorn phone conversation. Paul asked to reschedule next week to discuss source of data and the timeliness of that data. Kevin agreed to set the call up. Bruce noted that there are RFP's floating around in other states. He wanted someone to look at what grant opportunities out there. He is also accruing a list of potential advisors from outside Connecticut and noted the importance of the board's work in light of Federal reform efforts.

Kevin asked Norma of staff that assist in grant opportunities in her agency. She responded that she does have staff. Kevin said that he would check in with administration to see they have exhausted grants opportunities.

Kevin cited the next meeting scheduled for Thursday November 12th. Vicki mentioned that by the time of the next meeting all of the task forces will have met. She suggested liaison's brief the board at that time.

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