

Justus-Warren Heart Disease & Stroke Prevention Task Force

Wednesday, April 25, 2012
Room 1027, Legislative Building

Minutes

Present: Representative Becky Carney, Shonda Corbett, Dr. Carolyn Dunn, Dr. David Goff, Commissioner Stanley Haywood, Representative Mark Hollo, Anita Holmes, Dr. David Huang, Glenn Martin, Dr. Jacquelyn McClelland, Wanda Moore, Representative Tom Murry, Peg O'Connell, Mike Patil, Senator William Purcell, and Dr. Karen Smith.

Erin Bayer, Lindsey Beavers, Paige Bennett, Renee Bethea, Sylvia Coleman, Audrey Foster, Leigh Hayden, Ann Lefebvre, Virginia Maisch, Jim Martin, Nicole Miller, Debi Nelson, Melinda Postal, Libby Puckett, Christine Ransdell, Rosemary Ritzman, Pam Seamans, Sarah Thach, Betsy Vetter, Melanie Watkins, Christine Weason, Marie Welch, Alexander White, and Elynor Wilson.

Welcome and Introductions

Senator Purcell welcomed everyone to the meeting. Task Force members and attendees introduced themselves and named the organizations they represent.

Approval of Minutes:

The minutes were approved as distributed.

I. Executive Director's Report:

Anita Holmes introduced new Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention (HDSP) Branch staff members, Audrey Foster, Clinical/Social Research Assistant and Leigh Hayden, HDSP Evaluator. Dr. Samuel Tchwenko will join HDSP, as Epidemiologist, in May 2012. Melvin Lewis, Program Coordinator for the Basic Implementation (BI) Program, has resigned. A new Coordinator will be recruited for this position. Erin Bayer, South Central Regional Coordinator, has accepted a position as a Lead Coordinator for the Community Transformation Grant (CTG) in her region. While a new HDSP Regional Coordinator will fill her position, HDSP will continue to work with Ms. Bayer through its partnership with the the CTG Program. Elynor Wilson, Regional HDSP Coordinator for eastern NC, has accepted a position with the American Heart Association (AHA) and will partner with HDSP through this relationship. A new coordinator will also be recruited for the Eastern Region.

Ms. Holmes reported on activities of the HDSP Branch including the BI Program, North Carolina Stroke Care Collaborative (NCSCC), and the Justus-Warren Task Force (JWTF):

- The NCSCC will submit a competitive grant application this spring. This funding opportunity is open to all states. NC's application will focus on linking EMS and acute hospital care for stroke patients and expand the Stroke EMS Linkage Project.
- The BI Program focus will be on the ABCS (Aspirin, Blood Pressure, Cholesterol, Smoking) and the Million Hearts Campaign.
- Carolinas Center for Medical Excellence (CCME) has requested Anita Holmes to present on the Stroke System of Care Plan (SSoC) at their annual meeting. CDC has also requested HDSP present on the ABCS at this meeting.

- Alexander White has compiled information on sodium reduction and will develop material to be shared with key stakeholders.
- A vending machine initiative will be piloted in three state government sites. Representative Murry will provide details in the Legislative Committee updates.
- A statewide media education campaign is planned in May on the signs and symptoms of stroke.
- February was Heart Health Month. A video, “Heart Lessons”, was broadcast throughout North Carolina. A post-campaign survey conducted in the eastern region of North Carolina showed a 19% increase in awareness of preventative measures in the African-American population. The level of awareness increased from 36% to 55%. There was an increase of 15% in the white population which raised the level to 77%.
- The Community Transformation Grant (CTG) will focus on three strategic directions: tobacco; physical activity/nutrition; and high impact clinical and other preventive services. A Clinical Coordinator will be employed to work closely with HDSP.
- A new stroke education campaign will focus on the less frequently known signs and symptoms of stroke.
- Sarah Thach, HDSP Regional Coordinator for the Western Region, has partnered with pharmacists in the Mountain Area Health Education Center Family Residence Program to provide counseling on an ongoing basis to employees with high blood pressure, high cholesterol, and diabetes.

II. Special Tribute

Dr. Goff has accepted the position of Dean at the University of Colorado, School of Public Health in Denver, Colorado. Ms. Peg O’Connell presented Dr. David Goff with a plaque honoring his service to the Justus-Warren Task Force.

III. North Carolina Cardiovascular State Plan (refer to handout for further details)

Ms. Peg O’Connell presented an overview of the North Carolina Cardiovascular State Plan goals and objectives for recommendation to the Justus-Warren Task Force for adoption.

Mr. Mike Patil requested a similar objective to Goal # 2, Objective 2.2 (by June 2016, increase the number of North Carolina worksites with environments and behavioral approaches that support detection and self-management of cardiovascular disease and the related risk factors for employees) be added in Goal #3.

Dr. Karen Smith presented a question regarding Goal #2, Objective 2.5.1 (promote coverage by insurers, payers, and employers for comprehensive, evidence-based tobacco cessation services and benefits, including counseling and appropriate medications at no or low cost) and looking at 2.4, asked if this objective would also be applicable for the treatment of obesity and to add strategy 2.4.5.

Dr. Karen Smith presented a question regarding recognition of the appropriate Cardiovascular Disease/Coronary Artery Disease markers which could apply to the 2.1 objectives. The recommendation can be presented to the committee for consideration. Dr. Smith will provide the Task Force with additional information on genetic testing.

Mr. Glenn Martin requested more information on the economic impact and cost to employers to locate in one area versus another. The language in Objective 1.1 could be enhanced by

addressing the economics of cardiovascular health and cardiovascular disease. It was recommended that this be a topic for presentation at a future Task Force meeting.

Ms. Marie Welch requested including safe walk/bike community trails. Dr. Goff reported this can be imbedded in Goal #1, strategy 1.3.4. Support of the Eat Smart Move More plan is included in the Plan.

Senator Purcell presented concerns regarding health care providers (i.e., specialists) who are not asking basic medical questions and whether this should be required of all health care providers to obtain this information.

Dr. Karen Smith reported NC Health Information Exchange (HIE) captures information which can be shared among primary care physicians and specialists. There is a need to get this information populated and physicians to participate. A federal Meaningful Use initiative and the NC HIE will help move this information forward and provide care a patient needs beyond that of the specialty.

Dr. Huang reported not all patients have access to primary care.

Dr. Goff reported, under Objective 2.1, the first four strategies can be made more explicit to promote access to primary care and promote coordinated care among primary care physicians and sub-specialists.

A motion to approve the Plan with the following recommendations was made:

- Add an additional strategy for reimbursement for obesity under the Objective 2.4.
- Add an additional strategy to Goal 3 around workplace signs and symptoms.
- Promote access to primary care and promote coordination of care across specialties and health care providers as it relates to Goal #2.

The motion was approved.

IV. Stroke Advisory Council Report (refer to handout for further details)

Ms. Sylvia Coleman presented a report from the Stroke Advisory Council meeting held on April 4, 2012.

V. Report from the Justus-Warren Legislative Committee

Representative Tom Murry reported on the JWTF Legislative Committee meeting held on March 3, 2012. Two major pieces of legislation were discussed at the meeting: HB 503, Nutrition Stds./All Foods Sold at School; and HB 670, Sodium Resolution.

HB 503 which references prepared foods has passed the House and sits in the Senate Education Committee. The Justus-Warren Task Force is on the list of organizations that support this bill. The Legislative Committee reaffirmed support of the bill.

A recommendation for a Senate companion to HB 670 was unanimously adopted by the Legislative Committee and was forwarded to the full JWTF.

The Legislative Committee discussed funding of the NC Quitline and the effort for healthy options in vending machines across state properties.

Representative Murry put forth a motion for the JWTF to adopt the Legislative Committee's recommendation to forward to the NC Senate a companion bill to HB 670. The motion was carried unanimously.

Dr. Goff asked if the JWTF has a public position supporting the NC Quitline.

Ms. Peg O'Connell reported the goals and strategies in the NC Cardiovascular State Plan do include support of the Quitline.

Ms. O'Connell moved that the Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention Task Force send a message of support to appropriate appropriations sub-committees in the House and Senate urging them to continue funding at 17.3 million dollars for existing tobacco use prevention and cessation programs. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

VI. Other Business

Representative Murry made a motion that the JWTF be a supporter of the CDC Million Hearts Campaign. The motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 12:35 PM.