

CHILD HEALTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES

November 4, 2004

Attendees:

Committee Members

Marilou Brodie, Bobbie Davis, Charlotte Davis, Blair Dean, James Fasules, Martha Hiett, Suzanne McCarthy, Kathy McFetridge, Connie Meeks, Martha Phillips, Rosemary Rodibaugh, Rhonda Sanders,

Staff

Becky Adams, Nancy Green, Ann Thompson, Lee Clark

Absentees:

Committee Members

Steve Singleton, Susanne Tullos

Next Meeting: Thursday, December 2, 2004, 9:00 a.m.
Room 906, Freeway Medical Building
5800 W. 10th Street, Little Rock

The meeting was called to order by Chair, Martha Hiett. Minutes of the October 7, 2004 meeting were approved as written.

Martha Hiett advised the Child Health Advisory Committee Members that the meeting would adjourn at 12:30 p.m. She informed them of a meeting beginning at 1:00 regarding Healthy Arkansas/Childhood Obesity/Medicaid Project, focusing on Medicaid eligible children and obesity. The meeting will address interventions that could be developed into a plan of implementation.

Martha introduced Lee Clark, who has held a wide range of positions with the Health Department for several years. Lee is now the Coordinator for an obesity prevention grant recently awarded to the Department of Health. She said Lee would also work closely with Healthy Arkansas and connect with the Child Health Advisory Committee.

She said the Board of Health endorsed the Child Health Advisory Committee Recommendations at their last meeting and that they are currently being reviewed by the Department of Education. She said the Board of Health also recommended that all schools immediately begin complying with existing state statutes for physical activity for K-8. Bobbie Davis asked if she needed to investigate the matter and Martha said she would follow up with Russ Sword and report to Bobbie.

Martha gave a Hometown Health Report. She said HHI Leaders are now working with the local committees to provide training, using the power point presentation and the Guide.

She said Joy Rockenbach and Mary Gaither had gone out and presented information on BMI, the Child Health Advisory Committee and Act 1220 to some local districts. She said a goal is to work through the system at the local level, and for the Community Health Nurses and the Health Promotion Specialists to be able to share information about Act 1220 and the Child Health Advisory Committee, as well as BMI.

Martha said Regional and Local Hometown Health staff is developing local plans for Healthy Arkansas that should be completed by the first of 2005 for every county in the state. She said that Act 1220, the

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Child Health Advisory Committee Recommendations and BMI are major components of the school piece of Healthy Arkansas.

Suzanne McCarthy reported that ACHI had received the Bronze Quill Award for communicating the BMI issue. Later in the meeting, she introduced Lori Barr, ACHI's Communication Specialist. She said that ACHI is developing a database that could eliminate data entry as it is now being done. She also said there had been discussion of integrating other school screenings into the same database. Bobbie Davis reminded the committee that the Department of Education needs time to implement any new procedures. Suzanne said schools would be sent a disk containing BMI information and it would be their responsibility to get the information to parents.

Tammy Harrell gave a Department of Education update w/handouts comparing Arkansas physical activity/education requirements with several other states. She also handed out a Status Update of the Policy Recommendations of the Child Health Advisory Committee that was presented to the State Board of Education, and copies of Acts that relate to the Department of Education. Tammy advised that as a result of Blair Dean's request, she had checked on schools that are providing 225 minutes of physical education, and that one school in Illinois is implementing such a program. She said McComb Mississippi has an excellent program. She also said Arkansas is in line with the other states. She said the health curriculum is not being taught consistently. She said the Department of Education wants to reinforce the 60 minutes of physical activity/education/extra-curricular activities. Bobbie Davis said the Board of Education had been given the necessary information so they could make informed decisions. She said there would be additional costs for the necessary additional time to implement the 60-minute requirement. Martha stressed the need for connection with school superintendents, and the need for the Committee to have additional recommendations or revisions each year. Charlotte Davis suggested that maybe the Board of Education could implement the parts of the Recommendations that would be practical immediately. The Committee discussed at length the physical activity portion of the Recommendations and how the process might be expedited. Bobbie Davis said the Board of Education had instructed the Department of Education to look at the parts of the Recommendations that could be implemented immediately.

Martha Hiatt reported that she had a draft of the Bylaws and would get it out to the Committee the following week.

Martha Phillips reported that the Education Resources Subcommittee had met. She said those present decided that they needed assistance from the Department of Education. They agreed on the need to develop a plan for systems of monitoring and reporting. They selected Martha Phillips as Chairman and agreed to continue meeting. She said the subcommittee would use existing sources of information to make a comprehensive list of standards and policies and determine specific indicators they would want to see and identify what form they are in. They would then recommend a final/composite reporting form. She said the subcommittee would report back to the full Committee in March 2005.

Martha Phillips reported on the Evaluation of Act 1220. She said the first level of key informant interviews had been completed and a report will be ready for distribution by the first of December. She said she would need an hour at the December meeting to report on the evaluation. She also reported that the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation funding is a 98% certainty and they are going to increase the communication budget.

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Rhonda Sanders gave a Communication Plan Subcommittee report. She said the subcommittee recommended that communication be unified and they discussed the development of a speaker's kit and display board that could be used by the Committee and others. She said they also discussed ways to orient local school districts about Act 1220 and presenting a videoconference. Bobbie Davis said the Department of Education has set aside each Friday to transmit information and might be able to assist with the videoconference. Rhonda said they would have the kit ready by January 2005 and could coordinate with Hometown Health. She said they discussed taking the Child Health Advisory Committee meetings on the road. Sue Chambers made a motion to accept the Communication Plan Subcommittee plan/report and recommended that they move forward to implement. The motion was seconded and carried.

Connie Meeks said she would present an educational orientation at the Nutrition and Physical Activity Advisory Committee meeting in Jonesboro on November 15, 2005. She said that, through her job with Blue Cross, she explains BMI and Act 1220 when she visits organizations in her areas.

Kathy McFetridge advised that there would be a State School Board meeting on November 30 and December 1 at the Statehouse Convention Center. She said she had secured a booth for the Committee to display information about the Committee and Act 1220. Three members volunteered to work the booth and Rosemary Rodibaugh volunteered to produce a display and provide a display board.

Martha Hiatt advised that the BMI Brochures would be reprinted and comments or changes would be considered.

Sue Chambers stated that she wants the Committee to insure that communities don't have two or three overlapping efforts. Rhonda Sanders said that the videoconferences could help to eliminate the problem. Rosemary suggested a list serve including the chairmen of the local committees.

Martha announced that staff of the Health Department was working together to link with Hometown Health and would get with Bobbie Davis, Mary and the subcommittee to coordinate efforts and have another meeting regarding the communication plan before the January meeting. Bobbie reminded the Committee that all schools must be informed of any requirements by July 1 of each year.

Proposed logos were handed out and discussed. The Committee agreed to change the logo to a simple circle that would contain CHAC, within a larger circle that would have CHAC spelled out. Martha said she would have the logo ready for the display board.

Dennis Farmer told the Committee that wording regarding implementation of recommendations that are not yet approved should be changed in the Guide for local committees. Martha said that will be corrected on the website and in the Guide.

The meeting adjourned at 12:30, followed by the Healthy Arkansas/Childhood Obesity/Medicaid Project Meeting.