

**CHILD HEALTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
November 13, 2008**

Attendees: Committee Members
Carole Garner, Elton Cleveland, Charlotte Davis, Margaret Harris, Hollie Huckabee,
Michelle Justus, Geri Spires (sitting in for Barbara Kumpe), Richard Nugent, Joe Don Parris,
Chris Patterson, Diane Vibhakar, Jada Walker, Karen Young.

Absentees: Dee Cox, Tyrone Harris, Kathy McFetridge, Sherry Ratliff, Patsy Smith, Paula Smith,

Staff: Joy Rockenbach, JoAnn Bolick, Valle Phillips, Pamela Henry

Next Meeting: December 11, 2008

Carole Garner called the meeting to order. Minutes of the October 9, 2008 meeting were approved and read without any corrections.

Guiding Principles Discussion – Joy Rockenbach

All items in Guiding Principles were reviewed and then voted on. Guiding Principles passed by unanimous Committee vote. The motion was accepted by Dr. Nugent and seconded by Chris Patterson.
(Guiding Principles document attached)

Children’s Issues Panel Discussion

Jodiane Tritt with the Arkansas Department of Health spoke about the following issues:

- 1) A bill to expand the immunization registry into adulthood;
- 2) Modifying the rabies control provision-change periodicity schedule to match the manufacturers periodicity(current rate in Arkansas is one year, would like to have it changed to three years);
- 3) Trauma system-ADH will assume role of lead agency. There will be four levels for hospitals. Also, there will be an opportunity for hospitals to appeal to the Board of Health. There are several components to the Trauma System and some of the focus is on EMS, rehab, trauma registry, education and training, and etc. The Trauma System Dashboard System went live November 1, 2008.
- 4) Fluoridation-working on mandatory fluoridation in all water systems in Arkansas.

Rossi Smith with the Arkansas Children’s Hospital spoke about a graduated driver’s license tiered system for full licensure status and the need for a primary seatbelt law.

Willa Sanders with the UAMS, College of Public Health spoke about the UAMS package that will look at:

- 1) The restoration of a \$5 million budget cut;
- 2) Workforce development needs with opening the Northwest Arkansas UAMS campus;
- 3) A new Trans-relational Research Center; and
- 4) More funding needed for AHEC’s and DHEC’s.

Elisabeth Burak with Arkansas Advocates for Children and Families spoke about:

- 1) Health Insurance for all kids-Increasing the federal poverty line to 300% instead of 200%;
- 2) Substance Abuse Treatment Services for children and pregnant women – The possibility of having at least \$5 million to extend substance abuse treatment services for pregnant women and adolescents;

- 3) Children's Behavioral Health System (System of Care) – The possibility of having more money for Children's Behavior Health so kids can obtain health in their communities; and
- 4) The creation of wellness centers in schools through Coordinated School Health - \$900,000 in Governor's package.

Dr. Gary Wheeler with UAMS and AFMC spoke:

- 1) Menu labeling and the impact it would have on awareness and weight;
- 2) The Tobacco Tax Coalition – getting an increase in excise tax on tobacco would help support the trauma center and other efforts supported by the Coalition;
- 3) The expansion of AR Kids;
- 4) Problems with vaccination rates due to exemptions;
- 5) Trying to raise funds for foster care;
- 6) Trying to get the state to fund expansion of reduced lunch (supporting co-pay for lunches) – allowing students to eat free instead of paying \$.70 per day.

Reports:

Staff Update

JoAnn Bolick introduced a new staff member, Vallee Phillips – Executive Secretary for Child and Adolescent Health.

Health Department Update

Dr. Richard Nugent elaborated on key health issues the Health Department's agenda such as the need for building a trauma center in Arkansas, reducing infant mortality and teen pregnancy rates, oral health, and increasing physical activity. The Health Department sent a proposal to the Governor's Office that would expand education on infant mortality and teen pregnancy through outreach and enrichment programs. Also, Dr. Nugent discussed that launching a public awareness campaign about SIDS, the importance of folic acid supplements and the dangers of smoking while pregnant and around young children would be beneficial to residents of Arkansas. The Governor is yet to make a decision on which programs will be incorporated in his legislative package. Dr. Nugent also stated the Department of Health will be playing defense against someone who wants physical education out of schools.

Child Nutrition Update

Ms. Alicia Casteel presented for Ms. Sheila Brown. The award letters to schools for the Fresh Fruit & Vegetable Grant will be sent out next week. Also, Ms. Casteel stated some schools are returning excess funds to the USDA for unallocated monies of the Food Nutrition Grants.

Hometown Health Update

Cheryl Lindly stated there will be training for school nurses at the Arkansas River Education Service Cooperative in Pine Bluff. The Arkansas Center for Health Improvement is working to redesign a program for entering BMI information that will make it easier and save time for nurses. There is a BMI Program Training set up for December 15, 2008 for Community Health Nurse Specialists.

Act 1220 Coordinator Update

Joy Rockenbach mentioned that ACHI is working on the redesign of the BMI Data Entry Program.

Obesity Terminology

Karen Young stated that the Center for Disease Control does embrace the new terminology changes for identifying "overweight" and "obese". Overweight is now classified as between 85-95 percentiles. Obese is now classified as at or above 95 percentile. Karen advised that new terminology should be applied to grant applications for consistency across the board.

No public comment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 p.m.