

# Rhode Island Health Professional Loan Repayment Program (RI HPLRP)

## BOARD MEETING MINUTES

March 30, 2005

### ATTENDING:

M. Christine Benoit, DMD	Public Member/Governor's Designee (via conference call)
Dayle Joseph, PhD	University of RI, College of Nursing
Dave Leveille	RI Medical Society (representing Newell Warde )
Mary Anne Miller, RN, MPH	Chair, RI Department of Health (HEALTH)
Linda Makhlof	RI Higher Education Assistance Authority
Ruth Ricciarelli	Hospital Association of Rhode Island

### UNABLE TO ATTEND:

Kathleen Baer	Brown Medical School
Ernest Balasco	Wood River Health Services
Kerrie Jones Clark	RI Health Center Association
Rhoda Perry	RI Senate
(Vacant)	RI House of Representatives

### STAFF:

Maureen Ross, Office of Primary Care, HEALTH  
Carla Lundquist, Office of Primary Care, HEALTH

### I. Call to Order

M. Miller, Chair, RI HPLRP Board called the meeting to order at 8:45 a.m., welcomed members and noted that six of eleven Board members (or their representatives) were present, establishing a quorum.

### II. Old Business

*Review and Approval of RI HPLRP Board Meeting Minutes, April 14, 2004 and Minutes Addendum, June 7, 2004*

M. Miller asked members to review minutes from the last meeting (April 14, 2004) and the addendum to the minutes dated June 7, 2004. C. Benoit noted a typographical error on page 2, item # 8. A motion was made by D. Joseph to approve the minutes and addendum as amended, seconded by R. Ricciarelli, and unanimously approved.

### III. New Business

#### A. Review and Acceptance of 2005 Applications

C. Lundquist provided an overview of the 2005 application cycle, noting that application packets (n=44) were sent to Executive, Medical, and Dental Directors of all community health centers, as well as to all hospitals located in HPSAs. The following changes were made to the application packet for 2005:

Site Application: More information requested on languages spoken by patient population  
Health Professional Application additions:

- Verification of U.S. Citizenship
- Explanation of multilingual capabilities
- Declaration of current service obligation & completion date
- Declaration of pending application for NHSC Federal Loan Repayment

Two applications were received. M. Miller reported that the budget available for disbursement in this funding cycle was \$100,000 (\$50,000 federal funds/\$50,000 state match). C. Lundquist provided a summary of the applicants and their respective scores. She noted that both applicants are currently licensed

and in good standing in Rhode Island. M. Miller noted that both applicants scores are out of a possible 85 points as neither is a current RI HPLRP participant.

#### NEW APPLICATIONS (n = 2)

1. Mark Lucier, DMD [Pediatric Dentist], St. Joseph Hospital Pediatric Dental Clinic, Providence, RI (Site Priority 1 of 1, Score = 57). Dr. Lucier reports an outstanding loan balance of \$240,000. C. Benoit made a motion to accept Dr. Anthony's application, seconded by R. Riciarelli, and unanimously approved.
2. David Anthony, MD, MSc [Family Practice], Memorial Hospital of RI Family Care Clinic Pawtucket, RI (Site Priority 1 of 1, Score = 55). Dr. Anthony reports an outstanding loan balance of \$60,700. R. Riciarelli made a motion to accept Dr. Anthony's application, seconded by D. Joseph, unanimously approved.

No retention applications were received for the 2005 loan repayment cycle.

#### ***B. Awards Determination for 2005***

Following discussion of the applicants' scores, outstanding debt, the relative need of the sites, the maximum allowable awards and the fact that loan repayment awards are no longer subject to federal income tax, D. Joseph motioned to authorize two-year loan repayment contracts in the amount of \$70,000 (\$35,000/year) for Dr. Lucier and \$30,000 (\$15,000/year) for Dr. Anthony. The motion was seconded by R. Riciarelli and unanimously approved. (See attached summary table). The Board also authorized C. Lundquist to notify candidates immediately in writing that their applications had been approved for funding to facilitate loan balance verification and disbursement of awards before the end of the state's fiscal year (June 30, 2005).

#### ***C. RI HPLRP Board Vacancies***

It was noted that the Board currently has two vacancies. Board members are needed from the RI House of Representatives (due to the retirement of Rep. Maxine Shavers) and the RI Senate (Sen. Rhoda Perry must resign from the Board due to other commitments). The need for these appointments will be brought to the attention of the HEALTH Legislative Liaison.

#### ***D. Review of Community Needs Index***

The Community Needs Index (CNI) used in scoring RI HPLRP applications has not been updated since January 2001. A list of 18 possible factors for inclusion in an updated CNI was presented to the Board for discussion. The factors were generally agreed to be acceptable with the inclusion of overall cancer rates. M. Ross noted that need for oral health care is not specifically measured in the CNI, and the Board discussed whether to incorporate oral health factors in the CNI or create a separate CNI for scoring applications from oral health professionals. OPC staff will work on an updated primary care CNI, and C. Benoit and M. Ross will discuss a oral health CNI further post meeting.

#### ***E. RI HPLRP Statutes, Regulations, & Contract Template Update***

State loan repayment programs are required by law to be in alignment with federal LRPs such that state contract terms, including annual amount of payments and penalties for breach, are not more favorable to health professionals than federal terms allow. Due to changes in the federal programs, State of RI General Laws Title 23-14.1 and Rules and Regulations R23-14.1-LRP must be revised. This will be brought to the attention of the HEALTH Legislative Liaison. Additionally, the RI HPLRP contract template will be amended to reflect federal levels of Penalties for breach of contract, and provisions for contract cancellation, suspension, waiver will added per federal definitions.

#### ***F. 2006 SLRP Grant Application***

M. Miller reported that the grant application to the Bureau of Health Professions (BHPr) for the 2006 RI HPLRP must be submitted online by May 2, 2005. Given the issues RI has faced in obtaining the state match, the application will be submitted for \$50,000 of federal funding.

D. Joseph motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by L. Makhlof/C. Benoit. Meeting adjourned at 10:15 AM.