

**Rhode Island Department of Health
Women's Health Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes – November 5, 2008**

Members Present: Danielle Denis, Marie Ghazal, Margaret Koch, Jessica Marfeo, Marlene McCarthy, Cynthia Rosengard, Iris Tong, Angelique Higgins, Aldavina Dos Santos, Vivian Lima
Members Excused Absent: Katie Albert, Yvonne Freeman, Catherine Graziano, Wendy Fox, Lisa Jones, Janet Searles, Lisa Shea, Marian Mehegan, Christine Ryan
HEALTH Staff Present: Carrie Bridges, Kate McCarthy-Barnett

Welcome & Introductions:

Iris Tong called the meeting to order at 3:05 pm.

Approval of Minutes (October 1, 2008):

Minutes were accepted.

Project Updates:

The Pharmacy Board has implemented an Ethics Subcommittee. At this point, the subcommittee has not made any policy changes but does anticipate establishing protocols in the future.

Iris Tong will be participating in the subcommittee and will provide updates to the WHAC.

Subcommittee Reports:

· Breast Cancer among Elderly Women Subcommittee: On behalf of the subcommittee, Marlene McCarthy provided a detailed report addressing the issue of mammography screening for Rhode Island Women on Medicare Aged 65 and over (see attached). The report reviewed the types of mammograms (screening vs. diagnostic); exploration of questions addressed; responses to the questions from Quality Partners and RI Cancer Council; detailed review of research, statistics and barriers faced by this population; overview of the role of advocates such as the RI Breast Cancer Coalition; and suggested recommendations based on the findings for consideration by the WHAC. The recommendations included: 1.) Discuss opportunities for mammography screening education among older women statewide, with an emphasis on minority women. 2.) Consider an appeal to Dr. Gifford to provide physicians a “reminder to discuss mammography screening with their older patients); 3.) Explore an opportunity to collaborate with RI AARP on an event providing information on preventive screenings for older women (mammography, diabetes, cholesterol, colonoscopy, etc.). The committee will continue the discussion of this report and will finalize the recommendations at the next meeting.

· Healthy Relationships among Teenage Girls: Three agencies/organization in Rhode Island will be receiving a grant award (RIDE, Sojourner House and Young Voices) to modify existing software to create a virtual world for your adults; provide training and relevant materials to support parents, guardians and mentors and to build a network of resources and skills to be shared. Carrie Bridges

will provide additional information as it becomes available. In addition, she will provide an overview of a HEALTH Youth Action Research Report reviewing the issue of relationships among adolescents.

· Sexual Abuse Awareness: The funding for the flyer has been identified and the printing will be completed in the next few weeks. The next step will involve the identification of a mailing list for relevant physicians.

Teen Ambassador Projects:

An overview of previous teen ambassadors projects was shared. The updated manual was provided to members. A request was made to the new teen ambassadors to begin to brainstorm ideas for their project.

Regional Report: No regional report.

Staff Report: A review of the Region 1 funding allocation was provided. Region 1 has allocated \$14,950 to HEALTH. The funding will support the following:

- Women's Health Conference (a date has not been set at this point)**
- Development of CLAS standard and patient materials in different languages. Questions were raised addressing how the materials support women's health. Carrier Bridges will confirm the materials to be developed and provide an update at the next meeting.**

Announcements:

A discussion was held regarding moving the start time of the meeting until 3:30pm. The committee approved this recommendation and the new time for the meeting will be from 3:30-5pm.

Next Meeting is December 3, 2008