

**Rhode Island Department of Health Women's Health Advisory
Committee**

Meeting Minutes – February 4, 2009

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

Welcome & Introductions:

Iris Tong called the meeting to order at 3:35 pm.

Approval of Minutes (December, 2008):

Minutes were accepted.

Project Updates:

The Pharmacy Board has implemented an Ethics Subcommittee. Kathy Kettle (Pharmacy Board) attended the December meeting. Updates include: Emergency Contraception Fact Sheets were sent; Grand Rounds scheduled for W&I; In-service for Board of Pharmacy. Request for hard copy of materials to be provided to WHAC at the next meeting.

Subcommittee Reports:

- Breast Cancer among Elderly Women Subcommittee: Marlene McCarthy (excused):** The next step for the subcommittee includes drafting the letter to Dr. Gifford. Updates will be providing in March.
- Healthy Relationships among Teenage Girls: Subcommittee met and reviewed the HEALTH Youth Action Report. Background on project was provided by HEALTH (Rosemary Reilly Chammat). Next steps include obtaining recommendations from youth and assess for implications for HEALTH. The following suggestions for the role of WHAC were discussed: supporting comprehensive family life/sex education as an opportunity for youth to connect with adults; identify role models in communities at locations where youth gather; conduct social marketing about healthy relationships; support access to healthcare that is specific to adolescents. HEALTH is working on adolescent medical home initiative and planning to work with schools to address adolescent health. In addition, the discussion focused on Title X (Cheryl LeClair) with a review of the background, materials and confidentiality policies and suggestions to request a legislative commission to review the benefits and feasibility of entering into a family planning waiver.**
- Sexual Abuse Awareness: The flyer has been distributed. WHAC requested a copy in pdf.**

Teen Ambassador Projects:

Aldavina & Vivian (excused): Request to send information to their counselors.

Jessica: provided an update on the fashion show. The flyer will be copied and sent to WHAC members.

Katie: Contacted a nutritionist from the Medical School for a possible school assembly; same contact will also provide a school event to discuss breast cancer and nutrition.

Angelique: Looking the science fair and potential speakers.

More detailed reports will be provided next month.

Regional Report: See attached report

Staff Report: Carrie provided a review of projects/initiatives including the public breast feeding law and the status of the women's health internal review of programs.

Next Meeting is March 4, 2009