

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

**Meeting Minutes – June 3, 2009**

**Members Present: Iris Tong, Danielle Denis, Katie Albert, Marlene  
McCarthy, Carrie Bridges, Wendy Fox, Marie Ghazal, Cynthia  
Rosengard, Angelique Higgins Jan Searles, and Marian Mehegan.**

**Members Excused Absent: Yvonne Freeman. HEALTH Staff Present:  
Carrie Bridges and Kate McCarthy-Barnett. Guests: Laura DeBoer  
(OWH Intern)**

**Welcome & Introductions:**

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

**Approval of Minutes (April 1, 2009):**

**Minutes approved as written.**

**Project Updates:**

**Pharmacy Update**

- Iris went to the last Board of Pharmacy (BoP) meeting**
- The BoP is having difficulty operationalizing the WHAC's request for seamless care; one BoP member thought this was not an issue**
- BoP invites a few WHAC members to attend their next committee meeting to help think through this issue**
- Kelly Orr at URI Pharmacy Program did an updated study to see how many employed pharmacists would refuse to dispense; study results**

**to be presented at next BoP meeting**

- Action item: Carrie to re-send Kristina Diamond's power point presentation**
- Iris, Marlene, Cynthia, Marlene and Danielle will plan to attend the BoP committee meeting on 6/18**
- Action item: Send notice of BoP committee meeting to full WHAC**

**Breast Cancer Screening among Senior Women**

- See report from Marlene**
- WHAC agreed with Marlene's recommended next steps**

**Healthy Relationships for Teen Girls:**

- Cynthia to re-send legislation to Marie**
- Marie & Cynthia to determine how/what to recommend to WHAC**

**Sexual Abuse Awareness**

- Flyers to go out as soon as Senior Center can do the mailing**

**Exercise and Health:**

- Discussed how to target messaging to women.**
- Wendy to connect with Eliza Lawson at the Department of Health to see if there's something happening with the Initiative for a Healthy Weight that the WHAC can/should support**
- Jan, Wendy and Iris to connect over awareness about this**

**Goal:**

- **Sub-Committees to work during summer and report out at September meeting**
- **Wrap up subcommittees in September**

**Invite Dr. Gifford to attend September WHAC meeting:**

- **Dr. Gifford's participation is requested at the September WHAC meeting; Carrie to verify that this is on his calendar**

**Teen Ambassador Projects:**

**Katie Albert**

- **Mary Flynn did presentation for senior girls on May 1; students were very engaged**
- **Mary Flynn also did a presentation nutrition and breast cancer on May 20 at the Narragansett Library**
- **Katie learned a lot and may study nutrition in college**

**Angelique Higgins**

- **Suzanne de la Monte and Molly Fox presented at an assembly for junior girls on women in medical fields**
- **Angelique is considering a topic expansion to include forensic science next year and making this her senior project**

**Jessica Marfeo (Jan reported out for Jessica )**

- **Jessica had Yvonne Freeman, an SSTAR client, and SSTAR Executive Director present about adolescent sexual health and the critical services delivered by SSTAR**

## **Items for review:**

- Women's Vision of Healthcare Reform- See handout from Marlene, people should respond individually if they are so moved**
- Title V MCH Block Grant Survey- Survey distributed and some oral feedback was presented; WHAC members are encouraged to submit individual comments via the online survey**
  - o A summary of survey feedback is listed below**
- § The focus area, "Improve maternal health through the (reproductive) lifespan seems like it should be a guiding principle and not a singular focus area**
- § The focus area, "Support safe and healthy environments for children and families" should be a top priority, more like a prerequisite**
- § The focus area, "Assure all Rhode Islanders have a medical home" should also be a top priority, almost a prerequisite**
- § The focus area, "Build a closely connected community system of services for families raising children and young adults with special needs" received a lower relative ranking as advisory members thought we had already made a lot of progress in this area**
- OWH Strategic Plan- Tabled for September**

## **Regional Report:**

- Marian Mehegan plans to join September meeting in person**
- Carrie to forward attachment to regional call to WHAC**
- Materials from the Federal OWH campaign, "Best Bones Forever",**

**will be available soon; this campaign targets adolescents**

- Federal OWH is developing an implementation process for its strategic plan; Marian hopes to be able to present this at the September meeting when we discuss the strategic plan**

- Region I OWH can begin releasing info regarding funding for regional projects; funded activities will need to be completed by August 30, 2010**

**Staff Report:**

- None**

**Announcements:**

- Marlene announced a National Breast Cancer Coalition Advocacy Training on June 27, 2009**

- Marlene announced the Partnership to Reduce Cancer conference on June 11, 2009**