



Meeting Minutes
Quarterly Partnership Meeting
April 28, 2009
Health Association of Rhode Island
5:00-7:00PM

Attendance

Cheryl Albright; Betty Bernal; Carrie Bridges; Deborah Burbank; Judy Cerrito; Teresa Chopoorian; Chris Cisar; Laury DeAngelis; Brian Denton; Kris Diana; Joyce Dolbec; Diane DuFresne; Linda Dziobek; Todd Ellison; Alexandra Fiore; Laura Hilderley; Barbara Joyce; Bill Koconis; Paul Madrazo; Sally Mendzela; Ryan O'Malley; Arthur Plitt; Dick Radebach; Harlan Rich; David Rousseau; Susan Shepardson; Debborah Smith; Rina Stamas; Alvaro Tinajero; Michael Vezeridis; Marsha Weiss; Anna Wheat; Jim Willsey; Pam Wilson

Meeting Details

Opening Remarks

David Rousseau opened the meeting at 5:00pm and welcomed attendees.

Governance

Debborah Smith, Vice Chair and Bill Koconis reviewed the changes to the Bylaws.

Discussion and Consideration for Vote: Bylaws April 28, 2009 Amendments

Motion to accept bylaws were seconded. Following discussion, the Bylaws were unanimously accepted. Pam will send a copy of new Bylaws to all members and post on website.

Nominating Committee

Susan Shepardson announced candidates for Board and read bios. Pam Wilson passed out ballot and collected ballots. Nominating committee adjourned to count votes. Susan Shepardson announced results. Motion to destroy ballots was seconded and ballots were destroyed.

Workgroup Reports

Detection and Screening

David Rousseau reported that Dr. Christy Dibble has been presenting to groups on education and awareness for colorectal cancer screening program. Barbara Joyce reported on the success of the awareness program at Electric Boat and the senior centers.

Dr. Harlan Rich informed the group about a program that they are piloting in Newport that provides free colonoscopy and follow-up treatment for low-income uninsured. Brenda DiPaolo joined the last meeting to talk about the Colorectal Cancer Screening Grant and how it mimics the Women's Cancer Screening Program.

Treatment

Brian Denton reported that the clinical trials survey would soon be released once they get IRB approval. They have beta tested sites and it is in scantron format. They are working on their semi-final draft for action plan.

Survivorship

Jim Willsey reported that the needs assessment survey was finished and waiting for IRB approval. Jim and Linda Dziobek drafted a letter of support that the application needs from the hospitals. They asked the group if anyone has any contacts on the cancer committees at the hospitals, to please forward that information to them. Because of HIPAA compliance, Alvaro prefers the hospitals to handle the patient lists. Dr. Fulton is in the process of strategic planning and has set up a Wiki for the group.

Prevention

Group is currently working on improving the full completion of HPV vaccine – ages 11-13. Working on strategies as a part of an action plan. Designing education programs to target parents/children and health care providers about HPV vaccination recommendations. Plan to target school nurse educators and bring the vaccine into middle school. Currently the “Vaccinate Before You Graduate” program is administering the vaccine to High school-aged children. Researching bigger policy change - mandating the vaccine. Carrie Bridges brought up the 9th grade health assessment legislation. Hasn't passed yet.

Election Results

Susan Shepardson reported the results of the Election. Congratulations were made to Debborah Smith for Chair; Linda Dziobek for Vice Chair; Bill Koconis for Secretary and Brian Denton for Treasurer. Elected board members were Todd Ellison, Paul Madrazo and Arthur Plitt. They accepted a two-year term beginning July 1st, 2009. Returning Board members with 1 year left on current term were also recognized: Joyce Dolbec, Kris Diana, Mary Falvey (not in attendance), Sally Mendzela, Alvaro Tinajero, MD, Michael Vezeridis, MD, and Marsha Weiss. David Rousseau will remain chair until July 1st and will serve on the board as immediate past chair (Ex-officio).

Cumberland Task Force

Jim Willsey reported on Cancer Care Age 55 and up and Cumberland Boys and Girls Club program where Todd Ellison is speaking about tobacco prevention.

Pawtucket Task Force

Teresa Chopoorian is targeting 5th graders in the Pawtucket schools. Working with DARE officer to provide education on the dangers of tobacco use. Having a poetry competition in the schools and will present the winner with an award on May 29th, World No Tobacco Day at amphitheatre in Pawtucket. Brian Denton suggested getting a local cable television to tape it. The taskforce has decided not to hold any more forums due to lack of attendance. They are planning on exhibiting at The Summit June 11th and will showcase a DVD. Also involved with Prostate and Pawsox. They have 6-8 active members and put a call for more survivors to join.

Latino Task Force

Alvaro Tinajero, MD reported on the Amiga to Amiga program – outreach to Hispanic community to provide education on cancer prevention. He spoke of the 3rd Annual Cancer Panel in Spanish. Thanked HEALTH for generous contributions in the past. Also recognized Pfizer and the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society for their support. Alvaro is putting together an analysis of policy statement including cancer mortality and morbidity rates in RI. Regarding surveys, he commented on the IRB application process and the funding based on survey. Mentioned difficulty of reporting of ethnicity. Hopes to get trained and train hospital staff on data collection with the use of CLAS standards. Identify trainer of trainers. Carrie Bridges – Team Lead of Office of Disparities-- informed the group about the May 13th event at Rhodes on Pawtuxet. Schedule: 4-6pm offering free cancer screening, 6pm dinner and presenters. NE Regional Minority Health Committee announced October 14-16, 2009 conference at RI Westin. Heavy content on cancer. www.nermhc.com

Woonsocket Taskforce

Joyce Dolbec reported that in March they partnered with Surgeon General on the 1st Lady Project: Drinking and Smoking. Held a Kick Butt day – where parents signed a form that they would not smoke or bring smoke into the house with children. Collaborated with the YWCA. www.unnaturalcauses.org - documentary on PBS. Leukemia and Lymphoma Society provided CEUs for “Hospice – how to live with it”. May 13th is Lobby Day sponsored by American Cancer Society.

Summit Planning Committee

Bill Koconis went over Agenda for Summit planned for June 11th.

Pam asked members who are interested in an exhibit table at The Summit to provide her with contact information via email.

David asked workgroups to let Partnership know when they have conferences so a representative of The Partnership can attend.

Membership Analysis

Anna Wheat, Program Evaluator, ran an exercise to assess what populations were represented on The Partnership. Suggested that we may want to target services for the Aging; city/town officials; mental health centers; faith-based organizations. She provided the group with a printed letter that they can send to prospective members who may be interested in attending The Summit.

Website/Public Relations Update

Pam Wilson presented her ideas on plans for the website: www.cancercoalition.ri.gov. Plan to make homepage more like a newspaper cover. Mission, Call to Action, meeting dates and workgroup current activities on every page. Adding a calendar for member cancer-related conferences, educational forums, tradeshow and events. Requested members to submit information. Also suggested adding member testimonials and "program in action" stories. Asked members to put our website link on their websites. Reiterated the idea of attending cancer conferences and looking for volunteers to man the booths. Introduced the "Program in Action" story idea. Asking for success stories from members. Will put on website but also try to get into the press under The Partnership umbrella. Designing a PowerPoint presentation about The Partnership to take around to recruit members. Informed group that coalition managers have conference calls to share ideas. Reiterated Anna Wheat's suggestion to send the letter to prospective members. Anna will provide electronic copy of said letter.

Member Updates:

Title V Block Grant

Susan Shepardson passed out a survey for the Title V Block Grant. Carrie Bridges spoke of the importance of the survey, as it will provide funding. 30% of the funds have to go to children with healthcare needs and that is a group that we often under represent in The Partnership. Informed the group about a Patient Navigator event where community health workers across all disciplines will be at convention center Thursday, April 30th.

Colon Cancer Alliance

Barbara Joyce announced the 1st Colon Cancer Awareness 5K walk being held on Sunday, August 2, 2009 at City Park in Warwick. www.ccalliance.org/ri.

Tobacco Cessation

Brian Denton introduced Pfizer's State Director and assistant. They offered assistance in providing smoking cessation education programs to state employees, at college campuses and other venues. They reported that there was a 60% increase in people trying to quit due to the tax increase.

7:20PM David Rousseau Adjourned the meeting.