

Children's Health Alliance of Wisconsin (Alliance)
Advisory Board Meeting Minutes
February 26, 2021
Virtual meeting via ZOOM
8:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

Members present:– Nan Peterson -Chair, Sarah Beversdorf, Jodi Bloch, Ann Boson, Sandi Cihlar, Kathy Clark, Bridget Clementi, Mary Freiberg, Dr. Diane Gerlach, Peggy Helm-Quest, Juliet Kersten, Jeremy Levin, Dr. Todd Mahr, Dr. Dipesh Navsaria, Thao T. Nguyen, Antonina Olszewski, Maria Elena Perez, Jay Shrader, Nikki Stafford, Julia Stanley, Andrea Swenson, Brian Vigue and Heidi Warpinski

Special Guest: Lindsay Punzenberger

Excused: Dr. Kevin Dahlman, Ben Eithun, Caroline Gomez-Tom, Dr. William Lobb, and Dr. Ralph Vardis

Staff present: Karen Ordinans, Matt Crespin, Lindsay Deinhammer, Brittney Farrell, Tara Goris, Erica Kane, Naomi Kowald, Colleen Lane, Jenna Linden, Karen Nash, Marilyn Noll, Joanna O'Donnell, Vanessa Ramirez, Kathy Schaefer, Natasha Tynczuk, Langston Verdin and Geeta Wadhvani

Welcome, introductions and announcements: *Nan Peterson, Chair*

Nan wanted to thank our three new board members, Maria Elena Perez, Thai Nguyen, and Andrea Swenson. They were asked to introduce themselves. She also acknowledged our newest project managers, Marilyn Noll for injury prevention and Lindsay Deinhammer for oral health.

Nan Peterson called the meeting to order and asked everyone to introduce themselves and share, "what non work related class would you teach"? Members shared, Rowing 101 along with the terminology, how to organize your refrigerator, how to train a dog, how to take action shot photos in a gym, see the world through an animals eyes, civics & healthy participation in democracy, how to make pirogues, finding the perfect meme for emails, bake cookies, how to make competition ready sand castles & sidewalk chalk art, how to help aging parents with memory loss, swimming lessons, how to do stained glass – after a refresher course, make the most of your Disney park visit, English native poetry for the non-English speaker, teach Tai Chia to children to help them with their emotional regulation, how to make homemade wine and furniture, girls running class, create costumes for children, how to survive a zombie apocalypse, sailing for mindfulness, bearing aspects on childhood, how to teach young people how to clean, cooking, and how to pick up toys.

Approval of minutes: Minutes from the September 25, 2020 Advisory Board meeting were reviewed. Heidi Warpinski moved to approve, and Dr. Todd Mahr seconded. The minutes were unanimously approved.

Reports from the field – notes of positive news:

- Alliance is healthy and thriving – we are at full staff. Staff have been working remotely and adjusting nicely. Everyone is anxious to get back on the road and continue with their meetings and conferences.
- Reach Out and Read Program – very smooth transition to the National Center– proud that American Family Children's Hospital and Children's WI are continuing their \$60,000 annual contribution to the ROR Wisconsin program.
- The 2021 CHAW budget is \$3.1 million with the majority being grant funded. Children's WI contributes over \$300,000 in cash and indirect services.
- EMSC program is applying for another grant through MCW that would begin in July for pediatric readiness in rural emergency departments. Would allow us to expand staff.

Legislative outlook: By Lindsay Punzenberger and Jodi Bloch

- Primary focus on Covid-19 – aggressive national strategy to combat the virus
- Scale up the deployment to get the vaccine out, looking at a new pharmacy program, and vaccine centers.
- Emphasis on insuring equity of the vaccination process - that will be an important point on all the policies they take on this year.
- Focusing on schools reopening safely
- Getting kids vaccinated will dominate discussion in Washington DC
- Nomination hearings were held for the new head of HHS, and the Surgeon General. One theme that came up frequently is mental behavioral health care for children. What was a crisis before has only been exasperated with the virus.
- Focusing on Medicaid and improving the program
- Focus on data out of CMS. Given the pandemic the reduction of well health visits, dental visits- make sure that the kids in Medicaid will get their services.
- American rescue plan – \$1.9 trillion proposal to support COVID response– Support directed to Medicaid, provide more money for states to expand Medicaid, increase in funds to support mental and behavioral health, WIC, SNAP and home visiting programs.
- Bill is being passed under budget reconciliation – a special process that requires specific things to not be in the bill. The goal is to get this completed by March 15th when some unemployment benefits run out.
- Dental therapy legislation is being introduced in Wisconsin and creates a new level of dental providers like a Nurse Practitioner – able to do procedures beyond what a dental hygienist can do, and key procedures currently provided by a dentist. While the dental association was opposed, they are now remaining neutral on the legislation.
- The Governor's proposed budget includes large increases in funding for child health and wellbeing, investments in education, and University of Wisconsin system.
- Expands mental and behavioral dollars to have mental health programs in school.
- Funds therapy fellowship training grants in the mental health program
- Expands grant program access for broadband service in rural areas and financial help for families that cannot afford these services.
- Raises age to 21 to purchase cigarettes & vaping products.
- Grant funding for lead abatement – allows children who have lead in their systems to qualify for birth to 3 programs. More testing can be done.
- Increase in homeless prevention funding.

CHAW Inclusion, Diversity & Equity efforts: By Karen Nash and Geeta Wadhvani

An update was provided on how CHAW got involved with ID & E partially based on the results of the staff 2019 engagement survey and the social events of the past year. CHAW scores high in most areas, but scored lower in clear communication around career advancement and opportunities for professional development. Infrastructure teams were developed; campaign and wellness, recognition & special events, personal and professional development, inclusion diversity & equity. Purpose of ID & E is to cultivate change in our understanding and interactions with each other and our partners; both personal and professionally. We experienced social unrest in Wisconsin and across the United States and many countries around the world; An ID& E education series was developed by CHAW staff with the guidance from Children's Hospital. We are studying a book by Ijeoma Oluo "So you want to talk about race". Committed to having open conversations to become advocates of change. The Advisory Board shared they would eventually like to also take this class.

Communication Data and Outcomes: By Karen Nash and Geeta Wadhvani

CHAW has developed a plan on how to display and share data information publically to ensure we are presenting data in a way that does not intentionally create harm to groups of people. We need to

display or share in a way that cannot be misinterpreted by others or lead to racial bias. Our goal is to lead with a compelling belief, value or benefit and emphasize external factors and structures.

Antonina raised a question on how we maintain that connection to systemic disparities, when you take race away from the data, and how the connection continues to be made for people as you also try to avoid inadvertent erroneous responses when racial data is included. Due to limited time, the Board agreed to continue the conversation at the June Advisory Board meeting.

Asthma virtual data walkthrough: By Brittany Farrell

A video created by CHAW staff Sarah Waara and Britany Farrell on the Asthma Walk Through program was presented. It can be used during and after COVID by more communities across the state. We are able to record the sessions and request feedback from the facilities. The video was made to be a short introduction to the virtual walkthroughs and for promotion.

CHAW re-organization and transition of leadership

Karen Ordinans provided a brief overview of the CHAW reorganization and philosophy behind it. It clarifies staff roles and the CHAW reporting structure. Each initiative is now led by a program leader who reports to the Executive Director. Nan Peterson explained the process used to fill the Executive Director position. Candidates went through the interview committee of the executive committee. Nan thanked Antonina Olszewski, Todd Mahr, Heidi Warpinski, and Jody Bloch for their due diligence in this process. Nan announced that Matt Crespin will become the new Executive Director of CHAW effective March 21, 2021.

Let's Celebrate

Nan kicked off a celebration of Karen Ordinans' retirement by welcoming guests to the Zoom meeting and with a video tribute from many CHAW partners, board members and past advisory board members that shared good wishes for Karen to celebrate her repurposing. Karen's Mom and her sister Kathy surprised Karen at home. Karen also was presented with a citation from Governor Evers acknowledging her 18 years of service, and a proclamation from the City of Milwaukee Mayor Tom Barrett declaring February 26, 2021 Karen Ordinans Day in the City of Milwaukee.

A toast was made to Karen, and Karen then provided remarks thanking everyone for all their support over the years and appreciation for their commitment to children's health.

The meeting and celebration was adjourned at 10:45 a.m.

Minutes recorded by Kathy Schaefer