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GOVERNOR

STATE OF LOUISIANA
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HOSPITALS



Bruce Greenstein
SECRETARY

**Louisiana Council on Obesity Prevention & Management
Minutes**

Thursday September 1, 2011, 10:00 AM – 12 PM

Pennington Biomedical Research Center-Administration Building-Presentation Room

Members and Partners Present:

Brigitta Baker (LSU Dept of Kinesiology)
Leah Barron (Louisiana Health Plan)
Donna Betzer (Healthy Lifestyle Choices)
Stephanie Broyles (PBRC)
Rob Buckel (Ochsner Health System)
Ritney Castine (DHH Chronic Disease)
Cathy Champagne (PBRC)
Kara Dentre (PBRC)
Kerry Everitt (AARP)
Dee Fuchs (Consultant, Baptist Community Ministries)
Stewart Gordon (Pediatrics, Earl K Long Medical Center-Council Chair)
Linda Greco (Southeast Dairy Association, Louisiana Dietetic Association)
Denise Holston (LSU Ag Center- Smart Bodies)
JiJi Jonas (East Baton Rouge Parish Schools)
Anne Kean (LSU AG Center/ Smart Bodies)
Betty Kennedy (DHH Chronic Disease)
Joan Landry (UL Lafayette Center for Child Development)
Leslie Lewis (OPH-MCH/CSHS Consultant Nutritionist)
Kate Lolley (Tulane PRC)
Bill Noonan (Environment & Health Council of Louisiana)
Karissa Page (Louisiana State Oral Health)
Virginia Pearson (MCH-Reg. 2 FIMR)
Ashley Politz (LA AAP)
Vanessa Richard (LSU Student Health Center)
Pam Romero (DHH/Nutrition-Council Coordinator)
Liz Scheer (Baptist Community Ministries)
Billy Stokes (UL Lafayette Center for Child Development-Picard Center)
Gayla Strahan (SE LA AHEC)
Berry Trascher (American Heart Association)
Patrick Williams (State Representative)
Stacy White (DHH Chronic Disease)
Susan White (Save the Children-CHK)
Alice Womble (Blue Cross Blue Shield/ LA 2 Step)

I. Call to Order/Welcome/Introductions

- The meeting was called to order by Dr. Stewart Gordon. After attendee introductions, all were reminded of the Council's Mission: *To promote an environment that supports opportunities for all Louisiana residents to make healthy food choices and to be physically active in order to achieve or maintain a healthy weight.*

II. Presentation:

"Pennington Biomedical Research Center's role, vision and take on obesity in Louisiana"
Dr. Heymfield, MD, Executive Director at Pennington Biomedical Research Center

III. June 2, 2011 minutes approved.

IV. Workgroup Reports

Louisiana Action for Healthy Kids (AFHK) Workgroup

Leslie Lewis, Linda Greco, Pam Romero and Betty Kennedy reported

- LA AFHK State Action plan is complete and in place. A mini-state meeting is scheduled during the Pennington Childhood Obesity Conference on September 14th.
- *Fuel Up to Play 60*: Currently, 1700 schools have participated. This year, 21 schools received \$53,900 in funding. Schools can apply four times a year for up to \$4000 for the year; application deadlines are October, December, February and June 1st. There are 8 schools currently in the process of applying for grants for the October 1st deadline. Please encourage your schools to apply on the website. There is a possibility to have training, maybe in early spring, at the Saints Training Facility. It depends on grant funds. Also, a “Top That Pizza” Contest is in the works. It would involve a child choosing a healthy toppings for a pizza and writing an essay on how it will help fuel their bodies to play for 60 minutes.
- *NAP SACC*: A pilot program was completed in New Orleans and now is going to be expanded to 26 additional childcare centers around the state in areas of Lake Charles, New Orleans, Houma/Thibodeaux and Monroe.
- *Childcare Center Regulations*: DCFS licensure regulations are in the process of being revised and approved which includes limiting screen time for kids under 2 to 0 minutes and 60 minutes for kids over age 2, and requiring 60 minutes of daily physical activity. Hopefully it will be approved by next year in January.
- *School Health Awards*: The awards will be presented at Pennington’s Childhood Obesity Conference.
- *NFL Saints Fitnessgram Project*: The NFL Saints donated 35 Fitnessgram kits to LA AFHK to distribute across the state. Michael Comeaux, DOE has done a great job in identifying the schools and distributing the 35 kits. There are some challenges to get schools to report but they are getting results. This project is being coordinated with the state Health Related Physical Fitness Assessment project and the Picard Center’s work in compiling and reporting the data. There is talk of introducing height and weight into the immunization database to create an all encompassing surveillance system.
- *Schools Putting Prevention to Work*: All 27 school districts are moving forward with development of their comprehensive school wellness policy. The school districts write monthly reports and all reports have been received for this month. 18 school districts have already submitted wellness policies before the October 30th deadline. The goal is to have policies submitted no later than December 30th.

Advocacy/Policy and Environmental Change Workgroup

Berry Trascher, Susan White, Kerry Everitt, JiJi Jonas and Pam Romero reported

- *Legislative Reports*: The DHH Legislative Team and the DHH Secretary have changed the approval process for legislative reports from Councils. The reports are a product of the Council and not DHH, therefore the Council will directly submit to the necessary parties as indicated in the legislation. The Council reports will no longer go through the DHH Legislative Report Approval process. A copy of all legislative reports submitted will be e-mailed to the DHH Legislative Team.

- *2011 Legislative Session Review:* It was a very successful legislation session. With a grant provided by Save the Children, 3 policies were pushed and 1.5 passed. The first law provides that schools that enter into a joint-use agreement do not incur any liability for injuries to persons or property. The second was a policy that would require lactation rooms in state-owned buildings. It was accepted as a pilot program which requires the construction of at least one lactation room in 10 state buildings on or before July 1, 2014. The third law would have required childcare centers to require 60 minutes of physical activity, no more than one hour of screen time for children over two years old and no screen time for those under two years old. The bill met strong opposition from the Child Care Association of Louisiana and did not pass.
- *Campaign for Healthy Kids:* Save the Children is very happy with the collaboration with the council and the policy initiatives. They have some new initiatives to focus on for 2012: child wellness, coordination with school nurses and healthcare and increasing healthy food access.
- *Complete Streets:* Act 244 was revised to increase bicycle and pedestrian safety and rights to the road. Pedestrians now have the right of way and vehicles must stop and yield the right of way. Now, AARP and the advocacy team is looking to support that policy with others and find out how and if the policy is being implemented. October is complete streets month and sidewalk audits and other events are being organized. Please join the advocacy team if anyone is interested.
- *Let's Move Cities and Towns:* 12 cities are signed up for Let's Move Cities and Towns. As a member of the Louisiana Dietetic Association (LDA), Pam Romero has been appointed co-coordinator of the American Dietetic Association's Let's Move Cities and Towns Project. Working through the LDA local dietitians across the state will be recruited to work with their local mayors to establish an action plan to impact obesity. Pam serves on the Steering Committee for the Baton Rouge (HealthyBR) and New Orleans childhood obesity prevention projects. A HealthyBR event was held Saturday, August 27th at the Red Stick Farmers' Market downtown to promote healthy living. The mayor and Glen Davis aka "Big Baby" both spoke. HealthyBR set up a table and organized blood pressure, percent body fat tests and promoted Fruits & Veggies More Matters. The New Orleans Childhood Obesity Prevention project is currently being developed under the lead of Dr. Karen DeSalvo.
- *National League of Cities:* National League of Cities is partnering with Louisiana communities with some RWJF funding for obesity prevention to support local communities, especially in rural areas. The organization is focused on developing an action plan and bringing people and organizations together to make sure everyone is working on different initiatives to get the "biggest bang for their buck" in creating healthy communities.
- *LAHERD (Louisiana Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance):* The organization aims to improve the quality of life through health and fitness and recreational activities. The organization promotes 60 minutes of physical activity a day. They are looking to recruit all physical education teachers to sign up for LAHERD.

Louisiana Childhood Obesity Research Consortium (LA CORC)

Stephanie Broyles reported

- LACORC has now built a more supportive website that will include grant announcements and new research findings. Future plans include more face-to-face events. Melinda Sothern (returning from sabbatical) has LSU School of Public Health funds and will help the team brainstorm on how to continue to improve the website and keep up the momentum on its construction. Rob Newton will be taking over as chair.

Health Education and Awareness Workgroup

Stephanie Broyles, Pam Romero and Dr. Stewart Gordon reported

- Pennington Annual Report Card: The Research Advisory Committee decided to not assign a grade this year, in order to establish baseline data to set goals, objectives, and specific targets for each of the indicators to reach, following the example of Healthy People 2020 and improve future grades; and encouraging community input and support. The Draft of the Report Card is available on the website and there is a place to leave comments. They are also hoping to have a “town meeting format” to discuss and comment on the Report Card. The team will then revise the report and release it in November. The goal is to know where they are going and how they can achieve it on an appropriate timeline.
- Pennington Conference: There will be a CDC representative from Healthy People 2020 speaking as well as the Secretary of DHH and other international figures. The last count was at almost 400 registrants.
- Southern Obesity Summit: So far there has been a good registrant turn out. The Policy session of the Summit will occur on Tuesday. Profiles of each of the 16 southern states are being compiled to exhibit the programs and policies the states are working on. The goal of the summit is to allow the Southern States to collaborate and coordinate evidence based strategies and action plans to address obesity epidemics in each state.
- Cecil J Picard Award: A call for nominations was e-mailed to Council members and partners and ballot distributed to active members and partners. The award will be announced at the Pennington Conference. The plaque has been ordered.

Steering Committee

Elise Lang reported

- CDC Public Health Associate Program: Katy Jensen and Elise Lang will be working with DHH Obesity Prevention this year as part of the CDC Public Health Associate Program. It offers the associates a two year experience in two different aspects of public health. Elise Lang replaced Soumya who now works Elise’s first job in STD control. This is Katy’s first year and will move on to Emergency Preparedness in July of 2012. Elise is from the Maryland/DC area and Katy is from Atlanta. They are both very happy and eager to work in obesity prevention.
- Display Board: Katy, Elise and Pam designed a three panel display board with the help of Studio Mundi graphic artists with funding gratefully provided by Baptist Community Ministries. The board will be displayed at conferences and other community events. The first panel highlights the statistics and epidemic of obesity in Louisiana. The second talks about the council, the strategic plan and initiatives. The third explains how an individual can transform their lifestyle to help sustain a healthy weight. A handout was also designed that reflects best practices for a healthy lifestyle, a listing of council members and partners and current programs/policies.
- Commitment Letters: Katy and Elise drafted commitment letters for the members and partners that would represent a formal commitment to the council, its mission and collaborative efforts. The letters will be distributed at a later date.

V. Announcements

- Melinda Southern is speaking at ADF's (Academic Distinction Fund) Distinguished Speaker Series on September 7th, 2011 from 4:30-6pm.
- DHH is undergoing reorganization and state budget cuts. For the past 5 years, DHH has provided a part-time position through funding from the state-funded Nutrition Services/Obesity Prevention to coordinate the legislatively created LA Obesity Council. The state funding has been cut and Obesity Prevention will be moving from DHH Nutrition Services to the DHH Chronic Disease Prevention and Control Unit. Obesity Prevention will be combined with the Diabetes Prevention and Control Program, which is currently funded through a CDC grant. This move to the Chronic Disease Prevention and Control Unit will give DHH Obesity Prevention more resources in terms of access to epidemiologists and other staff members. The Diabetes Program Manager position is currently open. The Council will be updated as this transition progresses.
- Vancessa Richard reports that LSU ranks 2nd for most healthy university according to Newsweek. The ranking is based on Trojan sexual health rank, drug scene grade, students that rated student health care as high, students that rated athletic facilities as top-notch and the food budget spent on local or organic food.
- Denise Holston reported on Smart Bodies and that funders like Whole Foods are looking to fund salad bars in schools.
- Rob Buckel reported that Ochsner has partnered with Jefferson Parish Public Schools to improve health and wellness of students, teachers and staff. Ochsner is creating 2 page fact sheets on "how to" topics related to health that will be available on the website. October 24th at East Jefferson Parish Library there will be a share fair that will involve sharing promising practices to improve health in schools.

VI. Adjournment

SCHEDULED MEETING DATES:

2011 December 1 (**NOTE: The Dec 1 meeting rescheduled to January 19, 2012**)

2012 March 1st, June 7th, September 6th and December 6th