



MCW CONSORTIUM ON PUBLIC AND COMMUNITY HEALTH
Medical College of Wisconsin
January 4, 2024

Meeting Minutes

Directors Present: Jesse Ehrenfeld, MD, MPH, Senior Associate Dean and Director, Advancing a Healthier Wisconsin Endowment; Stephanie Harrison, MA, Chief Executive Officer, Wisconsin Primary Health Care Association; Joseph Kerschner, MD, Dean of the School of Medicine and Provost and Executive Vice President, MCW; Catherine Kolkmeier, Executive Director, Medical Health Science Consortium; John R. Raymond, Sr., MD, President & CEO, Medical College of Wisconsin; Rebecca “Reba” Rice, MA, Chief Executive Officer, NorthLakes Community Clinic; Tony Shields, President & CEO, Wisconsin Philanthropy Network; Paula Tran, State Health Officer and Administrator of the Division of Public Health, Wisconsin Department of Health Services | **AHW:** Christina Ellis, MS, Program Director-Strategic Investments, Advancing a Healthier Wisconsin Endowment; Ugwuji N. Maduekwe, MD, MMSc, MPH, Associate Professor and Deputy Director, Advancing a Healthier Wisconsin Endowment

I. Call to Order

Ms. Rice called the meeting of the MCW Consortium on Public and Community Health to order at 2:01.

II. Approval of December 7, 2023, Consortium Minutes

The December 7, 2023, meeting minutes of the MCW Consortium on Public and Community Health were reviewed. Mr. Shields moved to approve the minutes. Dr. Raymond seconded the motion. The Consortium unanimously approved the motion.

III. Programmatic Updates

a. FY23 Audit

Dr. Ehrenfeld reported that AHW FY23 programmatic and financial audits have been completed, without major findings. The insurance commissioner has posted the findings on the Office of Commissioner of Insurance website, as part of the typical process, he said, noting that the document is also available to Consortium members in the Salesforce library. Dr. Ehrenfeld referenced scheduled touchpoints with the insurance commissioner, underscoring a strong relationship with the office.

b. 2025 Seed Grant Community-Academic Partnership Model

Dr. Ehrenfeld shared information about input AHW has received both formally and informally from academic and community partners about AHW processes, including its community-academic partnership model. He detailed features of the current model, which is used for both Seed Grants and Momentum Grants, and discussed challenges related to the prevailing method. He then proposed a revised approach, outlining refinements to processes related to partnership development, partner roles, and project budgets. Enthusiasm for the new approach was expressed by multiple Consortium members. Ms. Harrison asked if funding awards would still be split between community and academic partners. Dr. Ehrenfeld explained that the full grant amount would be available to community organizations and that academic partners would submit separate budgets. Ms. Kolkmeier asked if the new model would give necessary consideration to the “fit” between community and academic partners. Dr. Ehrenfeld answered that some details regarding partner matching needed to be worked out, but that input AHW received on this point was taken into consideration in building the model. Mr. Shields asked whether the new model may have a deleterious effect on proposal

quality for some applicants. Dr. Maduekwe said that AHW is thinking about expanding assistance to grant applicants equity across the applicant pool. Dr. Kerschner encouraged leveraging this new model to build capacity within the academic cohort. Dr. Ehrenfeld noted that the new approach “professionalized” an important role that has been fulfilled on an ad hoc basis historically. He also said that the new approach enhanced the accessibility to AHW funds, as required by the Commissioner’s Order. Ms. Tran noted that the new model created an opportunity for mutual benefit between community and academic partners, particularly in regard to community-based participatory research (CBPR). Dr. Ehrenfeld said AHW would further develop the model and share details with the Consortium as they are formalized.

IV. Decision Making

a. 2024 Momentum Grant LOI Review

Dr. Ehrenfeld reported AHW received 84 letters of intent for Community-Led Momentum Grants. He explained that \$6 million was allocated for this funding opportunity, which could support approximately 24 projects of up to \$250,000. Projects, he noted, need to be completed within a 24-month period beginning on July 1, 2024. Dr. Ehrenfeld then recapped the process for reviewing the letters of intent. Each reviewer, he said, provided scores and comments on the strengths and weaknesses of the proposed projects in three areas: impact, feasibility, and alignment with the call for applications. Dr. Ehrenfeld explained the scoring scale and referenced a document in which all proposals were listed in rank order along with brief descriptions. He invited discussion of the rank order and approval of a slate of proposals to advance to the full proposal stage. Discussion centered around striking the right balance in an approved slate so as to include a logical cut-off point and create a pool whose members have a reasonable chance of final approval. Dr. Ehrenfeld provided criteria used by the review panels to create the ranking. Dr. Raymond moved to advance the top 33 letters of intent. Mr. Shields seconded the motion. After discussion, Dr. Raymond amended his motion to include letters of intent scored 2.56 and higher, the top 43 proposals. Mr. Shields seconded the motion, which passed on a unanimous vote by Consortium members. Dr. Ehrenfeld said that AHW will notify all applicants of the outcome of the review, including sharing the detailed reviewer comments with all applicant teams and supporting those invited to submit full proposals.

b. Community Cancer Science Network – Collaborative Work Groups Full Proposal Review

Dr. Ehrenfeld referenced a proposal entitled, “Strategic Investments to Bridge the Gaps in Prevention and Care to Reduce Inequities in Cancer.” He explained that Dr. Young and the Center for Urban Population Health are requesting \$4.8 million over 36 months to support communities, academics, and healthcare systems to work together to affect meaningful changes in cancer prevention and early detection, prioritizing those experiencing cancer disparities. The project’s goals, he added, are to improve cancer-related outcomes and foster learning that will generate sustainable practice and policy changes. Dr. Ehrenfeld then provided a detailed history of this project, which has received joint funding through both the Consortium and the MCW Research and Education Advisory Committee (REAC), before inviting discussion of the proposal. Ms. Kolkmeier asked about any precedence for projects receiving joint funding from the Consortium and REAC. Ms. Rice explained that this is the only project of its kind. Ms. Tran asked about the progress the project had made toward its stated goals since its inception. Dr. Maduekwe explained that the project’s original timeline had been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, and that feedback and facilitation offered by the Consortium would be shared with the project team. Dr. Raymond made a motion to approve the proposal. Ms. Kolkmeier seconded the motion, which was approved on a unanimous vote.

V. Director’s Report

a. REAC Update

Dr. Ehrenfeld reported that in its December meeting, the REAC approved a proposal by Dr. Urrutia entitled, “A Data Science-Enhanced Genomic Program for Advancing the Health of Our Wisconsin Children.” He added that the REAC would also review the Community Cancer Science Network proposal in its meeting on Jan. 10. Ms. Ellis noted that a joint meeting of the Consortium and REAC is being planned for April 4 and that details would be provided once they were confirmed.

VI. Adjourn

The meeting of the MCW Consortium on Public and Community Health adjourned at 3:16 p.m.



Next Meeting:
February 1, 2024
2:00 to 4:00 p.m.



**MCW CONSORTIUM ON PUBLIC AND COMMUNITY HEALTH
Medical College of Wisconsin
Virtual Meeting
February 1, 2024**

The February 1, 2024 meeting was canceled.