



HEALTH RESEARCH SCIENCE BOARD

Regular Business Meeting

Friday, March 14, 2014

2:00 PM – 4:00 PM

MINUTES

Locations

Albany: NYS DOH David Axelrod Institute, 120 New Scotland Avenue,
Executive Conference Room

Rochester: University of Rochester Medical Center, School of Medicine and Dentistry,
415 Elmwood Avenue, Conference Room 1-8523

New York City: NYS DOH Metropolitan Area Regional Office, 90 Church Street,
Conference Room 4 D

Board Members Present

Douglas S. Conklin, PhD (Chair, V)
Beverly Canin (V)
James Hicks, PhD (V)
Diana E. Lake, MD (V)
Gary Morrow, PhD (V)
Arun Puranik, MD (V)
Catherine Putkowski-O'Brien (V)
Richard Dickinson (EO)
Robert Riter (V)
Neeta Shah, MD (V)
Wendy Watkins (NV)
Marc Wilkenfeld, MD (V)

Board Members Absent

Russell Hilf, PhD (V)
M. Suzanne Hicks (NV)

NYS DOH Staff Present

Bonnie Jo Brautigam
Carole Ju
Scott Menrath (DEC)
Mackenzie Riley
Mary Rogers
Lakia Rucker
Diana Yang, JD

V = Voting member

NV = Non-voting member

EO = *Ex-officio*, non-voting member

Call to Order and Opening Remarks of the Chair

A quorum was established and Douglas S. Conklin, PhD called the meeting to order at 2:10 PM.

Consideration of Minutes of April Meeting

Dr. Conklin asked if there were any comments on Exhibit 1, the minutes from the April 19, 2013 regular business meeting. Beverly Canin asked if Ms. Putkowski-O'Brien had been appointed prior to that meeting, and stated that if so, her name should appear under "Absent." (Addendum: Ms. Putkowski-O'Brien was not appointed until June 4, 2013, so her name was not added to the Minutes' list of absent members.)

ACTION

Arun Puranik, MD made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 19, 2013 meeting (Exhibit 1) without further changes. Ms. Canin seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and the motion was unanimously approved (10-0).

Program Update

Bonnie Brautigam gave an update in the current status of Rowley scientific breast cancer research contracts for the previous procurement (7 completed and closed out) and the current round (executed 8 contracts that started 9/1/13 and slated to end 8/31/15). She stated that an RFP for peer review services will be issued very soon, with an expected contract start date of 10/1/14. She described HRSB appropriations proposed in the Executive Budget, and gave an overview of proposals regarding Board configuration, flexibility in Board meeting requirements, and pesticide sales and use data collection.

Marc Wilkenfeld, MD and Gary Morrow, PhD expressed frustration regarding their impression that the Board's recommendation regarding the pesticide database was not fully supported. Scott Menrath of the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) gave a summary of the Governor's legislative proposal regarding pesticide data collection and the rationale behind the proposal, including the elimination of confidential data collection, which is the piece under HRSB's purview. Mr. Menrath projected that if changes occur as proposed, there could be savings of several hundred thousand dollars per year. Ms. Canin stated her concern about the proposed loss of pesticide use data since additional information had been brought to light since the Board made its recommendations. Ms. Brautigam reminded the Board that negotiations between the Governor, the State Senate and the Assembly were still underway on these proposals. DOH Attorney Diana Yang reminded the Board that their recommendations were taken into account by the Department of Health in formulating its proposed legislation.

Regarding proposed changes to Board configuration, Ms. Canin stated that it is very important to keep regional representation by survivors, and to not decrease the number of survivors serving. Ms. Brautigam stated the proposal maintains the four voting survivor seats.

Prioritizing RFA Issuances

Dr. Conklin re-confirmed that because a contract for peer review services is expected to be executed by 10/1/14, an RFA could be issued in the summer of 2014 and new contracts could potentially start 7/1/15.

Ms. Brautigam reminded the Board of their previous plans for the order of RFA issuance. She asked if the Board still desired to proceed in that order. Ms. Canin stated that she was very troubled that awards were held up because of budget limitations when taxpayer donations specific to the program should not be impacted by budget issues. Bob Riter expressed concern about funds being held-up for the last round of Rowley applications that had already been peer-reviewed, and asked for a guarantee that there would not be any further such delays. Diana Lake, MD stated that these delays are not fair to researchers. Dr. Morrow echoed these frustrations. Ms. Canin said the hope is to re-establish the Board's credibility.

ACTION

Ms. Canin made a motion which was seconded by Dr. Puranik, as follows:
Issue the Health Care Practitioner Education Research RFA in the summer of 2014 with a target contract start date of 7/1/15; the Board's Committee on Program Needs and Evaluation should meet to consider revising the Rowley scientific RFA; and following that, the Board should then meet again to discuss the next RFA issuance.

Dr. Wilkenfeld left the meeting, but quorum was maintained. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Puranik- Yes
Canin- Yes
Shah- Yes
Lake- Yes
Hicks- Yes
Putkowski-O'Brien- Yes
Riter- Yes
Morrow- No
Conklin- Yes

The motion failed.

After further discussion, Dr. Morrow revised his vote to "yes." The motion passed.

Public Comment

Marilyn DuBois (office of Assemblyman Steven Englebright) shared several concerns about legislative proposals regarding the Board's configuration and pesticide data collection requirements. She is in favor of maintaining the regional advocate appointment scheme and does not support changes to pesticide data collection.

Laura Haight (New York State Public Interest Research Group) raised concerns about changing the Pesticide Reporting Law. She offered comments on the effective use of the data in the past and she advocated for not changing the law.

Meeting Planning

Dr. Conklin stated that the next meeting would likely be in October 2014. Ms. Brautigam asked Board members to respond quickly to availability inquiries from staff.

Meeting Adjourned

The meeting was adjourned at 4:12 p.m.