WOMEN’S HEALTH STEERING COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
September 10, 2010

The Office of Women’s Health Steering Committee held its regular meeting in The RSA Tower, Administration Board Room at the Alabama Department of Public Health in Montgomery, Alabama. The following were in attendance:

Attendees:

Nan Priest  Janet Benfield  Janet McQueen
Margaret Findlay  Katie Obringer
Kathy Boswell  Linda Roussel
Jane Fuller guest of Kelley Bownes  Tracy Welsh
Laura Susan Cain  Cynthia Williams
Myrtle Goore  Jessica Hardy
Debra Hodges  Elana Parker
Carol Kelley Nesbitt  Karen Carr
Tracey Elaine Kinard  Dechelle Merritt
Linda Mays

Sign in sheet is attached.

Welcome/Call to Order

Nan Priest, Chairman, Office of Women’s Health Steering Committee, called the meeting to order at 9:50 a.m. She greeted the steering committee members and welcomed visitors. Jessica Hardy introduced the new staff of the Office of Minority Health, Sandra Jones. Committee members introduced themselves and gave the name of the organization they represented. Recognition was given to Karen Carr, Re-entry Coordinator for Aid to Inmate Mothers, who was present.

Ms. Priest also announced the new members. Tracey Elaine Kinard, Veterans Administration, was appointed by the Dietetic Association, and Dr. Myrtle Goore was appointed by the Medical Association of the State of Alabama.

Members were directed to review the contents of their packets and reminded of their commitment to attend every meeting. Members were also encouraged to put the meeting dates on their calendars, and inform the office if they were unable to attend any of the meetings.

Minutes Review & Approval

Nan Priest, Chairman, Office of Women’s Health Steering Committee, directed the members to review the contents of their folders and pay special attention to the Girls Night Out (GNO) handout from the event sponsored in June 2010. Sisterbration will also sponsor a GNO event on November 6, 2010, from 3:00-8:30 p.m. at the University of Alabama Bryant Conference Center in Tuscaloosa, Alabama. Jessica noted that the Office of Women’s Health will continue to partner with Sisterbration who does a dynamic job at getting the word out about HIV in minority women. Ms. Priest gave special recognition to Dr. Linda Roussel on her contribution to a book that was published to address Project Planning and Management for CNLs, DNPs, and Nurse Executives. Ms. Priest noted that a quorum was met and directed the steering committee members to review the June 4, 2010 minutes. A motion was made and seconded to approve the June 4, 2010 minutes, and the minutes were unanimously approved.

OWH Grant Application

Jessica Hardy, Director, Office of Women’s Health, provided the committee with an update about the progress of the Coalition for a Healthier Communities grant that was submitted by the OWH. If awarded, the grant will allow the OWH to expand its infrastructure and the outreach of the steering committee coalition to conduct a needs assessment to identify the health issues and concerns in Alabama women and girls. The project will target minority women and girls in the African American, Hispanic, and Asian descent populations.

Women’s Health Alabama 2009-2010 Data Publication

Debra Hodges, Office of Women’s Health Steering Committee, presented a report on the status of the OWH Data Publication. The publication was officially introduced during a presentation at the Alabama Public Health Association (ALPHA) Conference held April 9, 2010, in Opelika, Alabama. The publication was very well
received. Many commented that the presentation was one of the best during the conference. Dr. Hodges reported that Phase II of the project will consist of the workgroup adding lecture notes to the slides. Dr. Hodges will present an overview of the publication at the December meeting so that committee members can get the full scope of how the publication can be presented for use. Ms. Priest noted that the publication could be presented at business development meetings as well.

**OWH WHI-FI Initiative**

**Karen Carr, Re-entry Coordinator, Aid to Inmate Mothers (AIM),** discussed the collaboration efforts between the OWH, AIM, and the Department of Corrections in the development of the Women’s Health Information for the Incarcerated (WHI-FI) Initiative. WHI-FI was developed in 2007 as a result of the concern about the healthcare and wellbeing of incarcerated women. WHI-FI held its first educational session on cervical cancer in 2008 at Julia Tutwiler Prison. Monthly and Quarterly health programs were held at Julia Tutwiler Prison for Women, and Montgomery Women’s Facility reaching more than 300 women. In 2009 the program expanded to Birmingham Community Based Facility reaching more that 493 incarcerated women. Currently in 2010 more than 270 incarcerated women have been reached between all three women facilities. Phase I of the project consisted of monthly and quarterly health education programs.

Phase II of the program will kick off October 1, 2010, and will consist of referring inmates for health services within 30-90 days of release to the following pilot county health departments: Madison, Montgomery and Calhoun. As a follow up, the OWH will contact the county health department to request a roster of WHI-FI patients who followed up with their scheduled medical appointment and actually accessed services. Once the clients have attended their first appointment, AIM will follow up with the client via telephone to complete a phone interview or survey. A question was posed as to the average length of stay for women in prison. Ms. Carr stated that it depends on the conviction, over crowdedness of the prison. The services available to the inmates. However, 3-5 years is the average length of stay. The role of the community partners is to provide resources that the inmates need. For example, Communities of Hope provides medication to inmates. The role of the steering members would be to assist with providing health information topics in the areas of their expertise to the inmates during WHI-FI sessions. Individuals who are interested were asked to sign up to be a presenter. The WHI-FI sessions are held during the last Wednesday of each month from 8:30 – 10:00 at Julia Tutwiler and Quarterly at Birmingham Work Release and Montgomery Women’s Facility. A suggestion was made to have a lunch and learn program or possible tour to the Julia Tutwiler Prison directly after the December meeting. More details about the tour will be provided to the committee prior to the next meeting.

**Elana Parker, Health Equity Programs Manager, Office of Women’s Health,** provided a brief update about the WHI-FI trainings. WHI-FI trainings were conducted at the three health departments in the piloted counties, Madison, Montgomery and Calhoun. Nurses, Social Workers, and clerical staff that would be points of contact for the women once they were released were oriented to the WHI-FI program. Attendees were presented with a complete overview of the WHI-FI program, cultural competency information, cultural sensitivity information, and the WHI-FI referral process. The goal of the training was to help bridge the gap from the correctional facility to the community, and assist the released women in accessing the healthcare system.

Ms. Parker also gave an overview of the Infant Mortality Awareness Initiative. The program was designed to raise awareness about infant mortality, provide information to healthcare workers, and to create an educational platform to inform high risk women about opportunities to improve preconception health. The program timeline was July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010. The program consisted of three activities. During the first activity, group level program interventions were offered to 41 pregnant inmates housed at Julia Tutwiler Prison for Women. Funds received will be used to assist the pregnant women with obtaining birth certificates and referral linkages to services prior to release. Healthy lifestyle packets were also provided to all pregnant women in the prison system during the project period. During Activity Two, education and outreach programs were provide to high risk women and youth in the community. Activity Three consisted of the dissemination of infant mortality health information through media and public relation venues. Ms. Parker also announced the upcoming Infant Mortality satellite conference scheduled for Wednesday, September 15, 2011, from 2:00 – 4:00 central time. To register for the satellite conference, individuals can log onto www.adph.org/alphtn.

**2011 5K and 1 Mile Walk**

**Juaquala Madkin, Office of Women’s Health Steering Committee,** discussed the OWH 5K and 1 Mile Mother Daughter Walk. The Office of Women’s Health plans to partner with St. Vincent’s Health System to conduct the OWH 5K and 1 Mile Mother Daughter Walk during the 2011 ONB Magic City Art Connection. The event will be held April 30, 2011. The OWH is preparing the Parade and Noise permit to submit to the City of Birmingham, and a letter requesting that the parade fees be waived.
2010 Women’s Health Update Work Group Report

Margaret Findlay, Vice Chair, Office of Women’s Health Steering Committee, provided a report of the status of the plans for the Third Annual Women’s Health Update. The first Women’s Health Update (WHU) was held in 2008 targeting Nurses. In 2009, the Women’s Health Update expanded to include Nurses and Pharmacists. In 2010, the OWH expanded the audience to nurses, social workers, pharmacists, and dietitians. The 2010 Women’s Health Update is scheduled October 16 at the St. Vincent’s Bruno Conference Center in Birmingham, Alabama. The theme is “Women’s Health Across the Lifespan,” and there are topics for women of all age groups. The keynote speaker is Attorney Susan Dominick Doughton. She will discuss the Impact of Health care Reform on Women’s Health issues. This year’s update has some wonderful quality speakers that are experts in their area. Topics will include Promoting Mental Health in Women presented by Tony Morris with Birmingham Comprehensive Counseling Center; Diabetes Management in Underserved Populations of Children, Adolescents, and Women; End-of-Life Planning for Women presenter Janet G. Alexander; Lunch and Learn Postpartum Depression sponsored by Carole Zugazaga; the poster display; and auction. Dr. Findlay reminded the committee members to turn in their silent auction items. The WHU Workgroup is currently working on finalizing the CEU packet to submit to Dr. McDaniel. Linda Roussel sent out a call for abstracts and three have been submitted. Registrations are low but they are still coming in and we can expect individuals to register at the door.

Healthy Women’s Car Tag Update

Jessica Hardy, Director, Office of Women’s Health provided an update on the status of the Healthy Women’s Car Tag. She reported that the original meeting scheduled to go before the Legislative Oversight Committee was September 29. The OWH was notified that the meeting had been canceled until sometime in October. The OWH will be notified when a date is set. Jessica noted that the OWH will continue to work towards forming a Healthy Women’s Car Tag workgroup.

Adjournment

Nan Priest, Chairman, Office of Women’s Health Steering Committee welcomed the new members and thanked the committee for their energy and their attendance. Ms. Priest reminded the members to make every effort to attend the December meeting and the meeting was adjourned.

Next Meeting:
December 10, 2010

Minutes Submitted by Dechelle Merritt
OWH Administrative Assistant