

**CHILD HEALTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
**April 8, 2010**  
**Freeway Medical Building**  
**Room 801**

**Attendees:** Elton Cleveland, Dee Cox (via phone), Charlotte Davis, Carole Garner, Margaret Harris, Pam Jones, Michelle Justus (via phone), Patsy Smith, Paula K. Smith, Bob West, Karen Young

**Absentees:** Tyrone Harris, Barbara Kumpe, Kathy McFetridge, Christine Patterson, Brett Stone, W. Tony Thurman, Connie Whitfield

**Substitutes:** Kara Wilkins (Elisabeth Burak), Heather Johnston (Jada Walker)

**Staff:** Mary Wells

**Next Meeting:** May 13, 2010

**Business**

- ❖ Approval of March minutes was tabled until April due to lack of quorum.

**RWJF Center to Prevent Childhood Obesity & Federal Legislation & Policy Overview**

- ❖ Kathryn Hazelett, policy team lead for the RWJF Center to Prevent Childhood Obesity, gave an overview of the center and childhood obesity related content in healthcare reform. The center works to identify and promote the most promising strategies to prevent childhood obesity through policy and environmental change, and is housed within the Arkansas Center for Health Improvement. Healthcare reform content includes, but is not limited to:
  - Mandated coverage for obesity prevention services through nutrition and behavioral counseling
  - Calorie labeling for restaurants that have 20 or more outlets operating under the same name. Calorie labeling must be clearly available on menu board and drive thru. This also applies to vending machine operators. The FDA will provide proposed regulations within the next year and then will most likely be followed by a 90 day comment period.
  - Approximately 25 million will be appropriated for evidence based childhood obesity demonstration projects.
  - Incentive for chronic disease prevention in Medicaid. Program must be comprehensive, evidence based, widely available and include weight control.
  - Obesity prevention with at risk populations who utilize community health centers.

The Child Nutrition Reauthorization Bill is on the Senate floor and calls for an increase of \$4.5 billion for the bill and a \$.06 increase in reimbursement per meal. The bill includes, but is not limited to:

- More strict requirements of what can be served for school breakfast and lunch is also in the bill.
- The bill also contains direct certification for children who qualify for free and reduced meals when Medicaid eligible. Entire communities can be direct certified as well.
- Competitive foods to be strengthened based upon Institute of Medicine's Nutrition Standards for Food in Schools.

Reauthorization hearings of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (formerly No Child Left Behind) have started in the House and Senate. The bill includes, but is not limited to:

- School health environment reporting (access to play areas, kitchen equipment available, etc.).
- Physical fitness outcome indicator.
- Effective health, nutrition, and physical activity education.
- Disclosure of funds received from competitive foods.
- Strengthening of Carol M. White Physical Education Program (PEP) grants. The U.S. Department of Education has made a request for comments about how to strengthen PEP grants.

Transportation Bill is up for reauthorization. Currently 80% of funding is spent of highways, less than 20% is focused on public transportation, and less than 1% is spent on pedestrian and biking infrastructure. The center is working to include in the reauthorization, among other issues, the strengthening and expansion of the Safe Routes to School Program. The Farm Bill and Headstart bill are also up for reauthorization. The center's website is [www.reversechildhoodobesity.org](http://www.reversechildhoodobesity.org) and a search option is available.

## Maximum Portion Size List of Allowable Competitive Foods & Beverages

- ❖ Charlotte Davis, Karen Young, and Bob West presented their literature review findings on docosahexaenoic acid (DHA), an omega 3 fatty acid. The literature review of DHA was the result of the March meeting review and discussion of the 2009 – 2010 School Year Maximum Portion Size List of Allowable Competitive Foods and Beverages and whether or not enhanced beverages should be included on the list. The committee had reviewed a label from an enhanced beverage that claimed that DHA “nourished the brain.” Current, published studies are inconclusive that DHA helps brain function. There is no evidence that DHA harms brain function in school-aged children. They determined that claims such as these are important but claims are a marketing issue and beyond CHAC’s scope of work. A quorum was obtained because Dee Cox and Michelle Justus participated in the discussion via teleconference. Charlotte Davis motioned to accept the current Maximum Portion List of Allowable Competitive Foods and Beverages for the upcoming 2010 – 2011 school year, and it was unanimously approved. The list will be distributed by ADE in a Commissioner’s Memo.

## Coordinated School Health Report

- ❖ Paula Smith reported on Coordinated School Health.

### Significant accomplishments and activities

- State funding allocated for physical activity grants which were awarded March 11<sup>th</sup> to 56 schools
- 22 of 33 schools eligible to apply for the Arkansas Coordinated School Health Wellness Center Initiative (CSHWCI) submitted applications. The awards will be announced in May
- Meetings with new stakeholders with Ready to Read and City Connections Inc.

### Activities planned

- Currently collecting data from the schools to inform the CSH annual report (Arkansas Prevention Needs Assessment tobacco use data, School Health Index, Nurse Survey and CSH survey) the deadline to submit the data from the schools is June 30.
- Site visits to potential CSHWCI grantees in April and May (beginning April 6)

### News and staffing updates

- Elizabeth Kindall is the school based mental health state resource on the CSHWCI team employed by ADE
- Medicaid in the Schools office has hired RN as state Medicaid and budget resource for the CSHWCI team
- The ADH Office of Oral Health has contracted with a dental hygienist to provide oral health education to CSH school 4<sup>th</sup> graders

### Technical review from CDC project officer for year 3 work plan

- Strengths: CWIP and multiagency collaboration
- Weakness: Need more youth involvement and focus on disparities

### Upcoming events

- CSHWCI sites visits underway, expect award announcements mid May
- Training for schools interested in becoming a CSH site is June 15<sup>th</sup> at Agora center in Conway
- Next CSH Coordinator’s Meeting May 5<sup>th</sup>

## Agency and Program Updates

### Staff Update

- ❖ Mary Wells reported that CHAC members Carole Garner, Bob West, and Karen Young were asked to review, “How to Help Heavy Kids,” a book published by the Institute for Healthcare Advancement. ADH is interested in purchasing several thousand copies of this resource and making it available statewide through various partners. Overall, they agreed it was a good resource.

### Health Department

- ❖ Bob West gave an introduction of the STAR Health (Southeast Targeted Area Resources for Health) initiative occurring in Chicot, Desha, and Lincoln counties. As the initiative advances, he will provide updates. Overview on file.

### Hometown Health

- ❖ Cheryl Lindly reports that Mark Oliver been assisting with a built environment project in Cabot to increase recreational trail availability. Christine Reiffess has facilitated the creation of HHI obesity subcommittees in Faulkner and Van Buren counties.

**Child Nutrition**

- ❖ Sheila Brown reports approximately 250 manager certification course will begin in June. The director's conference will be in August. Whole grain workshops are being provided about how to incorporate whole grain products into menus and how to identify whole grain ingredients on a label. The parent forums on good nutrition role modeling continue in Monticello, Magnolia, and North Little Rock.

**COPH Act 1220 Evaluation**

- ❖ Surveys have been sent to superintendents (200) and principals (1000) for the annual evaluation.

**The meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m.**