

Obesity Task Force Meeting Minutes
Feb 24, 2009
AL Power Company WaterCourse Building
Clanton, AL

Members introduced themselves and new members were welcomed. New members included: Michael Sterling and Bernice Cobb from Miles Colleges, Heather Smith from Advanced Physicians Weight Management, Katherine Harper from BlueCross BlueShield, Carol Kutik from Lakeshore Foundation, Michele Marron from UAB Comprehensive Diabetes Center, and Loyd McIntosh from YMCA.

Mim Gaines provided an update on the BITE Grant application. This is a one time \$3000 mini grant for five communities in Alabama receive for nutrition or physical activity interventions.

Rosemary Blackmon provided an update on Scale Back Alabama. There are 66 counties and over 40,000 people involved in this weight loss effort. Roger Schultz is the coach for the program this year.

Loyd McIntosh provided information about the Jefferson County Healthy Child Day on April 19, 2009. He and Bree Garrett are co-chairs and need volunteers.

Richard Sinsky provided an educational update on obesity projections for the nation and Alabama. The charts were very helpful to see the vastness of the problem. After completing the approval process, these charts will be available to Task Force members on the OTF web site.

Dennis Pillion provided an update on the UAB Comprehensive Diabetes Center. The Center is very interested in assisting communities and community health care providers in addressing the increasing needs and concerns as related to diabetes. They are working to establish a strong diabetes network system.

Mim Gaines provided a summary of the results from the Obesity Task Force membership survey. The power point presentation, "State Obesity Task Force lcms survey" can be viewed by going to "<ftp://ph.state.al.us/NPA/>". The user name is PUBLIC and no password is required. This site is where Nutrition staff can share information that is too big to send through email systems.

Al Keith provided the Restructure Committee report which was emailed with the meeting notice. The report stated: In the full spirit of Dr. Williamson's directive that "the goal of the State Obesity Task Force was to develop and implement a comprehensive, realistic state plan which will reduce the worsening obesity epidemic in Alabama. The plan was not to change approaches already in progress, but rather to create a uniform approach to reduce obesity."

The effective definition, design, development, implementation, and management of a truly comprehensive, unified, integrated state plan that fully leverages existing approaches requires a thorough understanding of the approaches being utilized in each of the 67 counties through out the state. Therefore, our recommendation for the primary focus of the State Obesity Task Force (OTF), for the near term, is to create a comprehensive inventory of the existing approaches being utilized in each of the 67 counties through out the state. Producing this comprehensive inventory is the first step toward identifying the high value components that need to be included in the unified, integrated state wide approach.

We recommend the current structure and leadership of the OTF be "frozen" - meaning the committee structure and activities will not be changed- until the comprehensive state wide inventory is completed. Once the inventory is produced, the OTF membership will determine the appropriate structure and leadership necessary to support and drive the remaining effort to define, design, develop, implement, and manage the comprehensive, unified, integrated state plan.

Included in this recommendation is the inventory of current and planned initiatives utilizing OTF resources (human resources). The purpose is to see what commitments are being made and/or planned by the committees and how these plans align into the comprehensive state wide inventory is completed.

Mim Gaines offered a counter proposal. The proposal created a Board of Directors with a chair. See attachment for details. The group discussion following tailored the counter proposal, limiting the Board size and giving the Board the responsibility to select one or two main goals for the entire task force to address. The differences in the proposal and the current structure are to give the chair responsibilities instead of serving in a facilitator role and to have Board members meet on a regular basis to guide the direction of the task force instead of trying to do committee work at each meeting. The membership requested the Board to work the details out and present them for needed changes/ approval.

Tony D'Apice from Channing Bete presented a pilot offer to the Task Force for Mimi- Mouse educational materials. Channing Bete provided 10 copies of Mimi Mouse kits to be used and evaluated. The kits were given to the Nutrition and Physical Activity Division to share with the Obesity Task Force and the Healthy Weigh Initiative members. Interested Task Force members completed the request form. The NPA staff will mail the kits.

The next meeting will be in May 2009. There was not a strong majority to keep the meetings in Clanton or to move them around the state to different locations. Therefore, at the first Board meeting in March, the first line of business will be in selecting the May location.