

State Obesity Task Force Agenda  
September 19, 2007  
AL Power Company WaterCourse Building  
Clanton, AL  
10 a.m. – 12 noon

An estimated 40-50 individuals were in attendance at this year's fourth meeting of the State Obesity Task Force. Mim Gaines, Chairperson for the Obesity Task Force (OBT) opened the meeting. New participants were attending; therefore, everyone introduced themselves.

Rosemary Blackmon, with the Alabama Hospital Association, was not able to attend. In her absence, Mim gave a brief history of the 2007 Scale Back program and highlights of next year's program. **Scale Back 2008** will be ten weeks, allowing a full week for weigh ins at the beginning and end of the competition. The goal is for a 10-pound weight loss. Anyone who loses 10 pounds will be eligible for a prize, as an individual or with a team (if all lost 10 pounds). There are to be at least four members on a team. Barbers' Dairies, Blue Cross Blue Shield, and the Dept. of Agriculture and Industry are sponsors. Teams of four will be required, with team members being adults 18 years of older. The target audience will be through work sites churches, gyms, etc. Information will be available on "www.scalebackalabama.com" by October, 2007. Participation, as a site and as a team, was encouraged with a brief explanation of responsibilities of the weigh-in sites provided. The Alabama Dept. of Public Health will have a web cast on November 13, 2007, at 2 pm for sites desiring more information. To view the program, go to Alabama Department of Public Health's web site, and click on the Training tab located on the left side of the top row. The program details and registration information will be in the November section. <http://adph.org>

Molly Pettyjohn, RD, with the Alabama Dept. of Public Health, briefed the group on the **Southern States Obesity Summit**. The 250 people attending the summit represented 16 states. The summit featured best practices. Robert Wood Johnson Foundation pledged \$5 million dollars towards obesity related grants. Molly announced that **Alliance for Healthier Schools**, a program that works in conjunction with the Healthy School Program, would be hiring a Relationship Manager that functioned to facilitate resources that meet school nutrition/physical education curriculum. Molly also announced the **Governor's Obesity Conference** is scheduled for June 12-13, 2008.

Kalai Mugilan, PhD, a mortality analyst for Alabama Dept. of Public Health, explained the **2005 Alabama Health Statistics**, providing

handouts, booklet, and CD's of data. He volunteered helping the OTF members with data requests. He may be reached at 334-206-2693.

Robin Lawson, Nurse Practitioner, USA College of Nursing, discussed a **research program** she is conducting for her doctoral program. She is following the curriculum of **New Leaf** targeting low-income women in the Mobile area.

Shatomi Kerbawy, with the **Jefferson County Childhood Obesity Prevention Task Force**, updated the task force on the coordinated efforts of the Jefferson County task force. They have been working to identify various partners involved in childhood obesity and to develop an area resource directory.

Updates:

Mim stated the **Legislative Task Force on Morbid Obesity** was created by legislation. The purpose of this Task Force is to study the feasibility of implementing a pilot program to increase the funding formula of the State Employees' Health Insurance Plan for bariatric surgery in the morbidly obese as a treatment option in an effort to reduce the financial and clinical burden of morbid obesity upon the citizens of Alabama and to study the long term cost of coverage for morbid obesity versus the cost of bariatric surgery by a provider, certified by either the American College of Surgeons or the American Society of Bariatric Surgery- Surgical Review Corporation Bariatric Surgery Center of Excellence program. Helen Wilson, a member of the OBT, is on the Task Force as the representative of the Alabama State Nurses Association. Mim and or Helen will provide updates.

Skip Smithwick briefed the group on the progress of providing additional copies of the **KidFit video** to the new kindergarten students. Because of his work with the OTF, he was able to provide videos to the children at the diabetic camp for children, Camp Seale Harris. To learn more about KidFit visit skip "<http://www.kidfitamerica.com>" or email [smithwick@mysylacauga.com](mailto:smithwick@mysylacauga.com)

Laurie Eldridge-Affant announced a new statewide **Wellness Coalition** had started. The purpose of this coalition is to develop a comprehensive state plan that will assist in coordinating the various wellness activities. The Coalition is a partnership between ADPH and UAB. This coalition will be similar to the OTF in that it will assist in coordinating the various wellness activities. In reviewing other state plans, none was found as comprehensive as what is being undertaken by this group. Laurie encouraged participation by contactin her at 334-206-5651.

Committee Meetings:

Members met in the four (4) workgroups, Medical Providers, Youth and Family, Data, and Community. Committee chair will send Mim the minutes of the groups, and she will share with the entire task force via email.

Thank you to Laura Watson, RD, LD for taking minutes at the meeting.

**The next meeting is scheduled for December 19, 2007, third Wednesday of the month, 10 a.m. – 12 noon, at the Alabama Power Company WaterCourse Building in Clanton (tentative location).**

**The majority of this meeting will be for committee meetings. (NOTE- This time will be used in reviewing accomplishments by the committees and developing plans for 2008.) Time provided at the end of the meeting to hear from each group.**

NOTE: This is part of an email I received from Kalai. I thought you would enjoy it as much as I did. This is a prime example, put in words, of how well we network!

Mim, I really enjoyed the meeting and the enthusiasm yesterday! It was really good to meet the Kidfit representative, Rick from Jefferson County, and the few other folks I met. In fact, Lisa from Tuscaloosa made contact and we are thinking about some stuff, albeit with mental health. Rick e-mailed, and I am running an analysis on how plain old obesity is coded in the cause of death now. Shatomi Kerbawy asked questions after we met on getting a project going.

I would love to be part of the force. It is flattering to have your brains picked on.

Kalai

Kalai Mugilan MA, MPH, Ph.D.