

Obesity Task Force Meeting Minutes
February 12, 2013
AL Power Company Office
Clanton, AL



Alabama Obesity Task Force (AL OTF)

Mission Statement:

"Working toward prevention and reduction of obesity for a healthier Alabama"

Purpose (Branding) Statement:

"The State Obesity Task Force works to address overweight and obesity issues through advocacy, policies, environmental changes, and programs that support healthy lifestyle changes."

Michael Jackson, Chair, welcomed members and introduced Michael A. Morrissey, Ph.D. as the first guest speaker. Dr. Morrissey is the Lister Hill Center for Health Policy Director. He provided an update on the Affordable Care Act (ACA) and reviewed implications for Alabama.

Members introduced themselves.

Julie A. Wells, MSW, LCSW, CDE Diabetes Resource Coordinator from the East Alabama Medical Center was the second speaker. She provided information on the development of the Patient Care Networks of Alabama. She explained the services received by the Medicaid population in east Alabama areas.

Michael Jackson reviewed the successful meeting held with Donald Williamson, MD, the State Health Officer. The OTF Board provided an overview of the accomplishments during the year. Dr. Williamson shared his vision for the Task Force and requested weight loss messages be developed into a marketing plan.

The Learning Connection: How Healthier School Environment Can Positively Impact Students is the working title of the conference that the OTF will be offering on June 25. Mary Martin Nordess, Action for Healthy Kids Committee Chair, is the lead for the conference. This conference will be patterned on a national Action for Healthy Kids meeting with the objective of community and school leaders- and their teams- receiving a better understanding of the nutrition and physical activity connection to good grades for students. Mary Martin stated the working goal is for local teams to leave the conference with work plans.

The Wellness Program Guide, completed by the Community Committee, was shared by Kathe Briggs. The guide is posted on the OTF web site at <http://www.adph.org/obesity/Default.asp?id=1979>

Sheena Gregg, Chair-Elect, provided an update on the ballot. There are still opportunities for members to be involved on the Board as a co-chair of the Medical and Data committees. Members who have agreed to be on the ballot as co chair are:

- Melanie Bridgeforth (American Heart Association) for Advocacy
- Gina Mabrey (Jacksonville State University) for Community
- Alice Evans (Alabama Sustainable Agriculture Network) for Food Systems
- Penny Edwards (Healthy Schools Program Manager for Alliance for a Healthier Generation) for Action for Healthy Kids
- John Jackson (University of Alabama) for Student Involvement

Edwin Marty, EAT South, shared that the Alabama Cooperative Extension System is working on a manual to help schools with gardens. He also shared a food policy council meeting will be held in Montgomery on February 20 which will be used to set the agenda for 2013. Concerns with the Farm Bill and tax on foods that food pantries have

to pay are two topics to be explored. The AARP listening sessions for the public to voice concerns with food issues continue.

Nancy Ray, State Dept of Education, shared that values from the physical fitness test is now reported in the computerized health records for students. When a student moves to another AL public school, the health record can be accessed. She also reported that Alabama was listed as one of the few school systems to require PE.

February is heart month. ADPH is offering a free heart healthy tool kit. Contact Jabari Sullen at 334-206-2688 for more details.

The YMCA and UAB have a joint website, MyDiabetesConnect.com, which is designed to link individuals affected by diabetes to local Birmingham and Jefferson County resources in order to promote healthy living and diabetes management. OTF members providing diabetes services in the Jefferson County area are encouraged to submit information to the website.

During the committee session, ideas were generated by each committee to be a part of the obesity healthy messaging plan. The Board will review all suggestions, and based on the scientific evidence to support the ideas, will present the top five to Dr. Williamson.

Upcoming Events:

When	What	Where	More information
Feb 20, 2013 12:30	Food Policy Council	Montgomery Development Office	Edwin Marty
Feb 20	Rural Health Conference - The Weight of Our Communities	UA, Tuscaloosa	http://cchs.ua.edu/conference/
May 11, 2013 7:00 am late registration 8:00 am Run	5K and 1 Mile Mother Daughter Walk (All family members invited)	Wilson YMCA- Park Crossing Road; Montgomery	www.active.com
May 18, 2013 7:00 am late registration 8:00 am Run	5K and 1 Mile Mother Daughter Walk (All family members invited)	Greenway Walking Trail Lakeshore Drive, Homewood (across from Samford)	www.active.com
June 7	Free health workshop	Vulcan	Bonnie Spear
June 25	The Learning Connection: How Healthier School Environment Can Positively Impact Students	Pelham Complex	Contact Mary Martin Nordness at MmNordness@sedairy.org