PLAY Leadership Council on Childhood Overweight

Minutes of Meeting Held on July 12, 2011 1-3 pm

Location: Georgia Nurses Association, Education Center, 3032 Briarcliff Road, NE

1.0 Attendees

1. Jim Annesi, YMCA of Metro Atlanta
2. Lindsey Bishop, Children Healthcare of Atlanta
3. Matt Caseman, Georgia Rural Health Association
4. Kylia Crane, GA-AAP
5. Brian Devore, GAHPERD
6. Michael Eriksen, Georgia State University
7. Monica Fink, Department of Early Care and Learning
8. Adrienne Gil, Alliance for a Healthier Generation
9. Debra Kibbe, ILSI Research Foundation
10. Rodney Lyn, Georgia State University
11. Joyce Maalouf, Georgia State University
12. Stacey-Ann Miller, Voices for Georgia’s Children
13. Lisa Medellin, Healthcare Georgia Foundation
14. Becky Mullis, University of Georgia
15. Carolyn Salavador, Georgia Childcare Association
16. Bernette Sherman, Kaiser Permanente
17. Kim Thompson, GAHPERD
18. JiLo Tisdale, United Way Metro Atlanta
19. JoAnn Yoon, Voices for Georgia’s Children

2.0 Welcome and Introductions, Michael Eriksen

• Roundtable introductions

3.0 Meeting overview, Michael Eriksen and Rodney Lyn

- Healthy People 2020 Community Innovations Project: The Department of Health and Human Services has announced a request for proposals for its Healthy People 2020 Community Innovations Project. “Do you have an innovative plan to use Healthy People 2020 to improve the health of your community? Awards are available for Community Based Organizations (not-for-profit) to address one or more Healthy People 2020 topic areas—with a special emphasis on environmental justice, health equity, or healthy behaviors across all life stages.” There will be 85-170 awards, between $5,000 and $10,000 each. The deadline for proposals is August 5th. The Funding Opportunity Announcement is available at

- Active Living Research: announces a call for presentation and abstracts as well as a call for award nomination for its annual conference to be held March 12-14, 2012 in San Diego, CA. http://www.activelivingresearch.org/conference/2012/cfa2012

- PLAY’s policy brief: Addressing childhood obesity: The role of After-School. This brief was based on the results of the PLAY evaluation of an after-school nutrition intervention based in 6 sites of the Center for Pan Asian Community Services of Doraville, GA. http://publichealth.gsu.edu/1033.html

4.0 PLAY and Partner Updates

4.1 Department of Education

Update on SHAPE pilot planning: The pilot implementation of HB 229 has been completed. The teachers were supportive and satisfied with the training by HealthM Powers. Teachers who attended training were most effective. Funds have been secured to implement the assessment state wide. Funds will cover equipment, training, and data collection for all schools. Training is being scheduled for local schools systems (90 training dates have been schedule through local system contacts).

Next steps:
- June 2011 - December 2011: Train physical education teachers statewide
- November 2011 - December 2011: Import student information into FITNESSGRAM program
- January 2012 - May 2012: Implement assessment; physical education teachers record student data
- May 2012: Local schools deliver first FITNESSGRAM reports to parents
- October 2012: The first annual report to the Governor

GaDOE will have in-house epidemiologist and data manager.

4.2 Department of Early Care and Learning

Bright from the Start finished conducting a pilot project in 24 child care centers in Southwest Georgia. Childcare providers were trained on developing and implementing wellness policies related to nutrition and physical activity for their centers. They received training, technical assistance, and funding (up to $2000) for a year to support their efforts. The goal of this project is to improve children’s lifelong eating and physical activity habits by training caregivers and educating parents on the importance of nutrition and physical activity to help reverse the trend of overweight and obesity among Georgia’s children. The project is in the evaluation phase (GSU-IPH is assisting with the data analysis). Preliminary results showed a trend in improvement in regards to dietary and physical activity practices in the participating child-care centers. Depending on the results of this pilot project, Bright from the Start may
encourage other child care centers statewide to adopt and implement wellness policies and may provide them with training and technical assistance for their implementation.

4.3 Kaiser Permanente
Kaiser Permanente is funding a cohort study led by the YMCA metro-Atlanta. 2000 children (3-5 years old) will be followed up till the age of 16.

4.4 Health M Powers
- HealthMPowers developed the training and materials for the state wide fitness training. HealthMPowers will be training a cadre’ of 8 trainers to help with the delivery of the training between July and December.
- Preliminary results from a new cadre of 41 schools focused on fitness indicated an increase in the percentage of 5th graders who improve or maintain scores on PACER, a BMI decrease and an increase engagement in staff and parents in promoting healthy eating and PA by 50%.
- In partnership with the Alliance for a Healthier Generation, HealthMPowers will work with all elementary schools in Savannah-Chatham County. In addition, HMP will coordinate efforts with Healthy Savannah, a community collaborative. An emphasis will be placed on policy and environmental change. A preliminary meeting to discuss how each group can support the efforts is scheduled for the end of the month. This will be a particularly exciting venture as it will combine school and community efforts.

4.5 Alliance for a Healthier Generation, Adrienne Gil
The Healthy Schools Program was launched in GA in 2007. There are 282 schools participating in GA (a total of 185, 557 students) and this year, 17 schools met recognition (13 bronze and 4 silver). Any school in the U.S. can enroll and receive free assistance and support to become a healthier place for students to learn and staff to work.
For more information: http://www.healthergeneration.org/

5.0 Future of PLAY, Leadership Council
The Leadership Council reviewed and discussed the current environment, resources, and organizations in Georgia dedicated to childhood obesity prevention. The role of PLAY in addressing some of the state’s needs around childhood obesity prevention was discussed. PLAY seems well-positioned to fill existing deficiencies in state capacity with continued/additional support. While the short-term focus of PLAY (next 6 months) is defined, there is a need to develop a focused plan of action that supports statewide goals around obesity prevention over the next few years. The Leadership Council provided strong support for continuing PLAY. There is a need to reestablish a state-level policy agenda around childhood obesity. Specific state needs identified by members included:
- Involve programs in different settings (childcare, school, healthcare)
- Host conference in Atlanta and invite legislators
- Engage the governor and DPH Commissioner
- A need for a state level structure/organization that give guidance/resources/information about organizations working on childhood obesity in Georgia so that efforts won’t be duplicated
- A need for a neutral convener between all organizations

6.0 Closing Remarks, Michael Eriksen and Rodney Lyn
- The immediate future steps will focus on soliciting feedback from stakeholders and Leadership Council members (through surveys and interviews) on the relative importance of existing priorities for childhood obesity prevention in Georgia and the role that PLAY should serve in addressing current deficiencies.
- PLAY will be working to define a new scope of work for continued funding. It will focus on connecting evidence to practice and policy and providing resources and support for statewide stakeholders and partners.
- The next PLAY leadership council meeting will be held in October 2011