

April 15, 2016  
10:00am-12:00pm



Conference call (888) 670-3525  
Conference code 2922384719

Alzheimer's Disease Research Grant Advisory Board  
**Meeting Minutes**

Alzheimer's Disease Research Grant Advisory Board Members Present:

- Leilani Doty, Ph.D., University of Florida, Chair
- Clinton Wright, M.D., University of Miami
- Jacqueline Wiltshire, Ph.D., University of South Florida, Assistant Chair
- Mariana Dangiolo, M.D., University of Central Florida
- Niharika Suchak, MBBS, MHS, FACP, Florida State University

DOH Staff:

- Teresa Mathew, MSW, MPA, Advisory Council Liaison, Biomedical Research Section
- Bonnie Gaughan-Bailey, MPA, ASQ-CQIA, Administrator, Biomedical Research Section

Members of the Public: None identified.

A quorum was not present. No decisions or votes were made during the meeting. The meeting was called to order at 10:05 a.m. Board members received all pertinent meeting materials. Board members participated via conference call and could actively and equally participate in the discussion.

**I. Meeting Minute Approval**

Meeting minutes from 2/5/2016 were not approved because a quorum was not present. The meeting minutes from 2/5/2016 and 4/15/2016 will be on the agenda for approval for the next scheduled meeting.

**II. Introductions and Update on Current Board Membership**

The Board welcomed new member, Dr. Niharika Suchak, from the Florida State University College of Medicine Department of Geriatrics. Dr. Suchak is serving as one of the Board's geriatricians. Staff provided an update on the current search for a geriatric psychiatrist. Two applications were forwarded to the Executive Office for consideration. A third application is expected.

**III. Legislative Update**

Department staff updated the Board on HB 941's new reporting requirements for the Alzheimer's Disease Research Program, as well as the new provision for carryforward of grant funds for up to five years. This legislation does not include provisions for administrative costs for the Program and was not included in the General Appropriations Act (GAA) for FY 2016-17. The GAA does indicate funds in the amount of \$5,000,000 for research grants which is an increase from FY 2015-16 of \$3,000,000. The FY 15-16 grants are in the process of being amended to allow for carryforward of funds for one additional year.

**IV. Discussion of Funding Opportunity Announcement**

The Board discussed the effects of HB 941 on the upcoming Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) in regards to the number of years for funding for each grant category, including pilot grants. Members will also need to approve the FOA timeline. DOH staff will answer applicants' questions regarding the FOA in two intervals, starting immediately following the publication of the FOA and ending before the deadline for the Letter of Intent (LOI). DOH are editing the LOI section of the FOA to assure clarity for reducing questions and errors.

**V. Health Disparities**

The Board discussed the ongoing need for focused research addressing health disparities relating to Alzheimer's disease. DOH staff discussed current work at the Department regarding health disparities and will invite health disparities experts from the Department to the next Board meeting.

**VI. Grantee Feedback**

There was some discussion of administering a survey to current and former grantees in order to gain anonymous feedback on their experiences during the funding period, especially their impressions of the quarterly reports (e.g. report content and timing). A DOH grant manager was able to provide some clarification of the Department of Financial Services' (DFS) requirements for reporting. DFS requires quarterly reports with an invoice in order to trigger the payment of funds to grantees. The current reporting template used for Alzheimer's Disease Research Program Grants will be attached to the meeting minutes for reference.

**VII. Number of Current Researchers**

Board members discussed what information would be useful when measuring the growth in Alzheimer's disease research conducted in Florida. Department staff informed the Board of current work underway to finalize a survey that will measure the number of full-time and part time researchers working on Alzheimer's disease for FY 14-15 and FY 15-16. Other possible variables to be measured could include the number of grants and approximate dollar amount of funding, as well as the timeframe of other, non-DOH grant awards.

**VIII. Public Comment**

None

The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 am.