

Rhode Island Chapter American Academy of Pediatrics

Board of Directors Meeting December 10, 2008 Partial Hospitalization Program Potter Buiding

Minutes

Attending: Beth Lange, MD: Presiding, Members: Brian Alverson, M.D., Seth Asser, MD., Heather Chapman, M.D., Pat Flanagan, M.D., Pam High, M.D., Lisa Keswick, M.D., Greg Lockhart, M.D., Executive Director Frank Donahue, and Guest Presenter, Deb Golding of the Department of Health. Excused Council Members: Robert Burke, M.D., and Amy Goldberg, M.D.

President Elizabeth Lange convened the meeting at 6:15 p.m.

Minutes of October 15, 2008 meeting were accepted on a motion of Patricia Flanagan, seconded by Brian Alverson.

Adolescent Health Transitions: Deborah Golding, program representative of the “Pediatric to Adult Healthcare Transition Project,” at the Rhode Island Department of Health described to the Board a new initiative developed in the fall of 2007. The goal of the transition for young adults with special healthcare needs is to “maximize lifelong functioning and potential through the provision of high quality, developmentally appropriate health care services that continue uninterrupted as the individual moves from adolescence to adulthood.”

The RI Department of Health’s Office of Special Healthcare Needs conducted a series of pediatric and adult primary care surveys to understand and identify current policies, practices, beliefs, and service delivery gaps related to the transition of and transfer of youth with special healthcare needs from pediatric to adult primary care.

A significant finding of the research is that the majority of adult primary care providers do not feel comfortable in treating young adults with certain medical conditions. The Office of special Health Care Needs recommends that key stakeholders from healthcare plans, providers, consumers and relevant organizations collaboratively develop disability competency training for physicians and medical students to ensure young adults with special needs receive appropriate care and treatment in medical environments.

The results also demonstrate a lack of coordination and communication regarding young adults with SHNs transitioning from child and family-centered care to adult healthcare.

To address these issues the Office has developed a portable medical summary and provider checklist that can be utilized by physicians to highlight critical medical information that can be forwarded to the adult healthcare provider with patient records.

These findings raise concern that young adults with SHNs are not actively participating in the transition process, The Office has developed a healthcare transition packet which provides education and strategies on the importance of being involved in this process.

The RI 2007 Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) provides data on Disabled youth. Data indicates that students with disabilities participate in risky behaviors earlier, more consistently and to a more dangerous level than their peers. Youth with disabilities are in need of targeted school and community programming to increase positive outcomes, such as increasing the following services:

- Programs that support social and recreational activities
- Programs that support self-determination
- Interventions that address behavioral health care needs
- Effective transition spanning from school to adulthood including academic, vocational and healthcare.

Ms. Golding distributed 2 pamphlets for the Board to review. They are being distributed throughout the primary care provider community.

Golf Committee Update: Greg Lockhart, reported that he has accepted the position of Chair for the 2009 Tournament and will be developing a committee to assist him. He has decided the tournament will be held at Swansea Country Club, venue of the 2007 event, and that the tournament will be held on Saturday, August 29, 2009. He asked the help and support of the board for the tournament as it will require an investment from many people to make it successful. He is in discussion with the “Tomorrow Fund”, a charity for children at Hasbro, to co-sponsor with RIAAP for this year’s tournament. Greg will report back to the Board periodically on progress.

President’s Report: Beth reported on the following projects/issues:

- **Web Site Update:** The new web site is almost completely and Beth, Pat and Frank attended a training session at Emblem Design to learn how to operate the system. There will be some issues as the Executive Committee is not really knowledgeable or adept at web site operation and management. Andy Snyder who negotiated the development of the site and was very able in WS operations has left the state to take a position in Connecticut. The Chapter will most likely engage a graduate student consultant to update the site until several Board members become knowledgeable and competent on WB site operations.
- **Second Hand Smoke Conference:** Seth Asser, M.D. has volunteered to attend the AAP conference, organized by the Julius Richmond Center. Seth will attend a

- Another pediatric conference immediately following in Anaheim CA. Beth asked Seth to make a presentation to the Board on the conference when he returns. There is also a requirement to actively provide a program following the conference.
- Vaccine Advisory Council: The Department of Health, with a recommendation from the Chapter has reorganized the Vaccine Advisory Committee to bring greater community input into the deliberations and decisions of the advisory committee. The committee will now have a membership consisting of community pediatricians from around the state, along with family practice, nursing, school nurses and institutional pediatrics. The first meeting will be held Wednesday, January, 21, 2009 at 7:30 AM at DOH.
- Obesity Prevention: The Rhode Island Department of Health has received a CATCH grant from AAP to organize and operate an obesity prevention program. Beth and Frank will attend a HEAL (Healthy Eating Active Living) Coalition meeting at the Airport Sheraton on December 11, which DOH is sponsoring to get provider input on obesity prevention. The Department of Health has received funding for an obesity prevention program from CDC and AAP. The AAP funding is in the form of CATCH grant that the Department will utilize as part of its Healthy Weight initiative. Pat Flanagan and Frank Donahue will meet with Eliza Lawson of DOH to understand how RIAAP can provide support.
- Global Medicaid Waiver: Beth updated the Board on the Medicaid Waiver of the Department of Human Services. The Governor is claiming the state can realize nearly \$67 million dollars in savings if approved by federal Medicaid officials and the Rhode Island General Assembly. The plan has not been “explained” to the provider community but in general would allow significant change in nursing home care and change in preventive and acute care services. The House Finance Committee will hold hearings within the next 30 days to approve or reject the DHS waiver option and RIAAP will testify in opposition since the waiver may have negative impacts on children’s health through change in the Rite Care Program.

Finance Committee: Beth and Frank are scheduled to meet with Treasurer, Keivan Etefagh to discuss our finances in view of the national financial crisis affecting every sector of the US economy and support for the Cambodian project. Recently, Keivan explained, we closed our Morgan Stanley account and transferred our operating funds and investments to Smith Barney Financial Investments. On January 9 there will be a Financial Committee meeting to review the state of our finances and to draw up an operating budget for 2009. At this time we have approximately \$25,000. in financial resources at Smith Barney.

CME Update: Beth stated we had approximately 55 members in attendance at the Fall CME on November 7 at the Marriott Hotel. The program focused on ADHD and related disorders.

RIAAP is developing a regional, tri state (RI,MA, CT AAP Chapters) CME for the Fall of 2009, which if it actually materializes would replace our annual fall meeting. The program is being planned for Providence in either October or November 2009 and will focus on pediatric mental health. Pamela High volunteered to provide counsel to the program committee and suggested Mary Margaret Gleason as a participant.

Legislative Update:

Medicaid Waiver: Although specific revisions of Medicaid have not been announced there are fears that long term programs for children may be at risk, such as, Early Periodic Screening and programs for children with special health care needs. The lack of forthcoming from DHS officials is creating anxiety throughout the health community. Members should contact their legislative representatives and senator as well as the Governor's Office to communicate their concern. Dan Walter of AAP has been helpful in helping RIAAP track the "waiver" process in Washington.

Governor's Supplemental Budget for 2008.RiteCare Reductions: RIAAP needs to be concerned about additional reductions in the Rite Care Program since the Governor recently announced a budget shortfall of \$3, 500.000 for fiscal 2009, the year in which we are now. An impact the community is just now feeling is the requirement for generic drug prescriptions that went into effect on December of this month. There could be more changes and the legislative committee is anxiously watching the 2009 and 2010 budget proposals.

Brian Alverson announced that Rep. Eileen Naughton (D-Warwick) received an award on behalf of her efforts in advancing the HIV legislation during the 2007 and 2008 sessions. Brian Alverson, also recommended, Elizabeth Dufort, a fellow who will be joining his group as a member of the Board.

Legislative Conference: The AAP is requesting applications for their annual Legislative Conference in Washington, D.D. on April 19 – 21, 2009. The RIAAP will send 2 representatives, consisting of a member and a resident. The conference educates pediatricians on effective techniques for advocacy for children and their families.

Membership Committee: RIAAP will be requesting an increase in dues from \$ 75.00 to \$100.00 at the January meeting

Children's Programs Update: Pamela High updated the Board on some new initiatives underway in the community, including "Project Launch" an initiative with the Rhode

Island Department of Health. It is the first year of a 5 year program that is funded at \$ 500,000.00 per year and is a nurse/family based service which will focus on young mothers.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm.