

Transportation Work Group (TWG)
Team Conference Call Minutes
Wednesday, December 2, 2010
1:00 – 2:00 pm

Present: Tony DeLucia, Priti Irani (note-taker), Dr. Stephen Mayer, Ijeoma Nwachuku, Karyn Warsow.

1. Priti reviewed events to date: The Community Health Planning and Policy Development (CHPPD) Section of the American Public Health Association (APHA) conducted a membership survey in April 2010 and more than 100 members responded enthusiastically. It was decided, as part of the process to engage members at the May 2010 meeting, an improvement methodology framework would be applied to proposed projects. Toward this purpose, three teams were formed: Member Engagement, Improving Invited Session and Public Health and Transportation.
2. The Public Health and Transportation team discussed potential “aims” of what the team would like to accomplish by June 2011. Priti posted what she thought was the consensus aim, including proposed measures and change interventions on the Wiki. Karyn did not agree with the direction of the project as it was not realistic or reflective of what was currently going on within the transportation community. Nor did she believe that it was in fact a team consensus. Karyn also questioned the appropriateness of the improvement methodology framework as applicable to advocating for transportation as a public health service and closing the communication gap between seasoned transportation and public health professionals.
3. Purpose of the TWG conference call: Workgroup Focus
 - What methodology would be used, if any, by the TWG;
 - establish workgroup contacts;
 - determine if the TWG was going to take up Eloisa’s invitation of writing an article for the APHA transportation e-newsletter;
 - and to determine future activities.
4. Karyn invited Dr. Stephen Mayer, her transportation mentor and doctoral committee external advisor, to join the TWG conference call. Dr. Mayer is a professor at Niagara University and also works part-time at Parsons Corporation. Parsons is a world-wide construction, engineering and management company (www.Parsons.com)
5. Team members agreed not to use the improvement methodology as it is not appropriate for a grassroots advocacy project. Tony suggested using the Health Impact Assessment methodology and will email information to the group as this is the methodology used by health planners. Dr. Mayer suggested contacting transportation organizations to learn what methodology is being implemented so that the TWG could remain consistent with what is generally accepted.
6. Priti suggested that the TWG not submit an article for APHA e-newsletter since the deadline was November 30, 2010 and the team was not provided with an adequate amount of time to prepare a submission. The TWG will request the next deadline date in advance and prepare a submission.
7. As was previously determined, Karyn will serve as the TWG leader and Tony will serve as the co-leader.
8. Discussion:
 - The TWG will need to utilize current and potential contacts with transportation professionals to query these individuals on public health and transportation advocacy. Based on this informal data collection method, the TWG will develop objectives aimed at developing a transportation-public health network.

- It is envisioned that organizations such as Parsons, TRB, FHWA, AARP, IBTTA, EPA etc., would be included within the network to advocate for transportation as a public health service (business method of “Branding”).
- The TWG will look for opportunities to present at transportation meeting such as the upcoming IBTTA conference in Berlin, TRB in conjunction with providing opportunities to transportation folks to present at public health meetings.
- Dr. Mayer mentioned that San Jose’s Mineta Transportation Institute has seminars and it would be helpful to get on their agenda.
- Transportation and sustainability are not currently on the public health radar. TWG will need to advocate for this topic as part of the aim statement.
- Policy perspective: discussed transportation issues related to crossing borders (e.g. city borders).
- Public health professionals have narrow perspectives regarding transportation. How do we broaden the current perspective? Transportation is multidisciplinary. We need to set into motion a cultural shift in perception of partnering and/or including transportation and public health on the same team.
- REVIEW (Priti): The CHPPD section has about 1,700 members. It is estimated that less than 1/4th of these members are actively engaged on any issue within APHA. The CHPPD section conducts bi-monthly conference calls, distributes three newsletters per year, monthly email blasts are sent out, organized workgroups are established and a very active student committee is present within the section.
- REVIEW (Tony): The Environmental Health Section has monthly conference calls and weekly newsletters.

9. Next Steps:

- Karyn and Tony will schedule a conference call to determine the methodology and objectives necessary for creating a grassroots transportation-public health network.
- Priti will type up the meeting discussion and email them out to the TWG members for review. Priti will also let Eloisa know that the group will not be submitting an article for this issue of the APHA transportation e-newsletter.
- Ijeoma said that she was happy with the direction of the group and would support anything that was decided. She will join in the next call when it was scheduled.