

COWR Business meeting, November 13, 2013

Attendance: Padmini (Mini) Murthy- Chair, Elizabeth Barajas- Roman, Valarie Conrad, Constance Jackson, Marjorie Sable, Mildred Hunter, Karlene Baddy (APHA liaison).

Absent: Nathan Boucher (excused)

- a. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 am by Padmini Murthy.
- b. Mini welcomed all members present.
- c. For the purpose of the new members committee members were asked to briefly introduce themselves.
 - Mini, Chair, recently joined the Board of Planned Parenthood.
 - Mini expressed condolences to Elizabeth for the recent loss in her family.
 - Constance - has a background in health care and will be the co-chair of program planning for the coming year.
 - Mildred – this ends her three-year term serving on the COWR. She announced that there had been seven suicides among young women this year and we should be addressing mental health issues.
 - Marjorie Sable is a member of MCH section
 - Nathan sent his apologies and had to leave before the business meeting.
- d. A special thank you was given to Valarie for volunteering to fill in for the rest of the term of a member who had resigned prior to the end of the term to be served.
- e. A thank you was expressed to the members whose three year term ends at the end of this meeting for their contributions to the COWR during the past three years. These included Mildred Hunter and Venus Gines who resigned in January 2013.
- f. The committee asked Karlene to convey their sincere and deep appreciation to Dr. Benjamin for his continued support of COWR.

COWR's Mission and Related Activities

- a. Packages were distributed to each member who included letters of support signed by Dr. Benjamin in support of women's issues.
- b. Karlene discussed the values, roles and responsibilities of the COWR included in their package.
- c. The Business meeting of 2012 was read, approved and seconded.
- d. Karlene brought attention to the material in the packages.
- e. Karlene asked members to review the evaluations of the previous year's sessions.
- f. Karlene requested that presenters should be experts in the area they are presenting and that members should try to market their sessions using what list serves are available to them and any other media.
- g. Mini reported that the committee has 4-5 teleconferences per year and she has several monthly telephone calls with Karlene.
- h. Mini expressed that it was important that all members respond to emails that are sent out.

- i. Karlene reported that APHA has changed its logo and tag line to: “For science, for action, for health”. APHA is beginning a new phase towards improving population health and addressing the issue of health equity for all.

Teleconferences for 2014

- a. Mini will send out a doodle poll to determine the next upcoming meeting in January. Each member is expected to respond.

COWR’s Program Planning

- a. Mini asked Constance if she would be willing to continue to take over the program planning activities and Constance agreed. Mini will be available to provide assistance whenever it was required.

Development of Abstracts

Issues encountered during the year

- Valerie reported that the presenter for one oral session did not show up. She thought that her session was a poster session.
 - Some presenters pulled out of their sessions because of the federal government shutdown.
 - Presenters should be informed that they should have an alternate in the event of an emergency
- a. Discussions of potential sessions for the New Orleans annual meeting include sessions on:
 - Mental health (post Katrina) proposed by Constance and Valarie
 - Reproductive Rights and Justice- Constance
 - Transgender issues (include violence against women)
 - “Women leaders in public health” session was well attended and may be possible to be considered for repeating this session.
 - b. Other potential sessions will be discussed at the next tele -conference
 - c. Other discussions focused on the clarity of topics that are attractive for maximum attendance.
 - d. Karlene discussed the process for obtaining CE credits for sessions. For sessions to be credit worthy there should be one main abstract and learning objectives and each presenter must have a short abstract and a learning objective for their part of the presentation. A disclosure statement must be completed.
 - e. Karlene suggested that the number of sessions should be reduced from eight. It is difficult justifying having eight 8 sessions with low attendance in most.
 - f. Constance suggested reducing subject headings and combine those that addresses similar issues e.g. maternal health and reproductive rights.
 - g. Mini suggested that there should be a common thread across the abstracts.
 - h. Mildred suggested that a conference call should be held for each session with all presenters to ensure that they are familiar with the theme of the abstract.
 - i. The meeting was adjourned at 8:00am

