



Board of Directors
Tuesday, January 16, 2024
12:00 PM to 2:00 PM

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Anita Bachmann, MHS
Vickie Bradley, RN, MPH
Goldie Byrd, PhD
Lori Byrd, DNP, RN, CRE
Frank Courts, DDS, PhD
Cory Hess, MBA
Andrew Kaiser
Trish Markus, JD, CIPP/US
Brian McGinnis, FACHE, FACMPE
Richard Montague
John Morrow, MD, MPH
Tim Norris, MBA, SPHR, SHRM-SCP, CHBC
Carrie Rosario, DrPH, MPH, CHES
Danny Scalise
Adam Sholar
Betsey Tilson, MD, MPH
Bill Way, MD

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Reuben Blackwell
Perrin Jones, MD
Jennifer Jordan, MD
Patricia Pfeifer, DEd, MSN, RN

STAFF PRESENT:

Khristian Curry, MPH
Don Gula, MBA
Emily Hooks, MEd
Brieanne Lyda-McDonald, MSPH
Kaitlin Phillips, MS
Michelle Ries, MPH
Ivana Susic, MPH

GUESTS:

Katie Ledford, CPA – Senior Audit Manager, Blackman & Sloop Certified Public Accountants
Andrea Eason, CPA, CGMA – President, Blackman & Sloop Certified Public Accountants

Call to Order and Mission

Adam Sholar, Chair of the NCIOM Board of Directors, called the meeting to order. Vickie Bradley read the mission of the NCIOM.

Review and Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

The minutes from the October 2023 meeting were reviewed and approved. The motion to approve was started by Bill Way and carried.

Celebrations

The annual meeting was held with a significant number of first-time attendees. The Healthy Aging report was published, and Brienne presented at various conferences and promoting the report through a “roadshow”. The fourth cohort of the LHPF program was launched last week.

New Board Members: Adam Sholar welcomed the new board members, two of whom were present at the meeting.

Dr. Frank Courts expressed his excitement about joining the board. He highlighted the increasing integration of dentistry into systemic health and hoped to contribute to this integration in the future.

Trish Markus, expressed her gratitude for the opportunity to join the board and looked forward to contributing her knowledge about health information.

Patty Pfeiffer was unable to join the meeting, and **Danny Scalise** is in his first full term.

Future Meeting Date: Michelle Ries, Interim President and CEO, pointed out that the meeting on October 17, 2024, will be held on a Thursday, deviating from the usual Tuesday meetings.

Audit and Finance Committee Update

Brian McGinnis reported that the Audit and Finance Committee recently met to discuss the annual audit process. Andrea Eason and Katie, who have worked with the NCIOM for several years, were present to review the audit findings. Andrea Eason clarified that the presentation was a high-level overview and not the full audit report.

Financial Statements Review: Katie Ledford presented the draft financial statements. The Audit and Finance Committee plans to issue an unmodified opinion, indicating no deficiencies in internal control. The decrease in cash from 1.6 million to 1.4 million was attributed to the timing of payments. Promises to give and investments have increased, contributing to an increase in revenue. There were no new funders this year.

Statements of Activities and Changes in Net Assets: The fiscal '23 statements showed an increase in grant revenue, partially due to the Evolve project. Contributions were not as significant as grants and contracts. Net investment return had a loss last year and a return this year. Total expenses increased, primarily due to increased programming work.

Audit Report Approval: Brian thanked Don, Andrea, and Katie for their work on the audit. The board unanimously approved the audit report.

Finance Report & Budget Updates

PNC Transition: Don announced the decision to begin a new banking relationship with PNC Bank while maintaining the existing relationship with Truist. He highlighted the benefits of PNC’s operating systems and fraud protections and mentioned the move to a similar insurance setup with US Treasuries.

Financial Position: Emily provided an update on the organization’s financial position:

Current Financial Position (as of Jan. 12, 2024):

Truist Checking Account	\$69,538.23
Truist Money Market Account	\$1,898,672.19
Paypal Account	\$16,804.57
Stripe Account	\$13,429.02
Morgan Stanley Investment Account	\$1,023,650.45
TOTAL	\$3,022.094.46

Future Budget Planning: Don announced that the budget for 2025 will be discussed at the next meeting with the Audit & Finance Committee.

Program and Project Updates

Evolve

Project directors Khristian Curry and Brienne Lyda McDonald discussed their work on task force redesign and meaningful engagement pieces. Brienne introduced the purpose and process of task forces, emphasizing the goal of consensus in developing recommendations for the future of health topics in the state.

Meaningful Engagement: Brienne and Khristian discussed the organization’s efforts to more meaningfully engage the people most impacted by the issues. They emphasized the importance of including these individuals in the process of proposing solutions and making them part of discussions and solution development. They also mentioned the potential move back to hybrid or more in-person meetings to allow for connection and the need for their products to be more useful for policymakers.

Definition and Objectives: Khristian elaborated on what they mean by “meaningful engagement”, defining it as “thinking about and treating people with lived experience as shared partners and leaders in our work”. Their objectives are to develop strategies to foster deeper and more meaningful engagement with the people most closely related and to establish norms and standards as an organization for how they want to work with those individuals.

Approach and Desired Impact: They are identifying existing partners who do this well, learning principles and core tenets, and seeking out community workshops. The desired impact is strengthened trust between communities and policymakers, more informed and comprehensive policies, and an increased sense of community ownership and representation in policy decisions.

Past Examples: Brienne shared past examples of efforts at meaningful engagement from the Task Force on Health Services for Deaf and Hard of Hearing and HNC 2030. Khristian mentioned how they started their oral health meetings by inviting folks directly engaged with the Medicaid oral health program to share their experiences.

Future Plans: They aim to develop a framework for meaningfully engaging people in all processes. This will look different for every topic as every community affected will look different.

Dr. Bill Way asked how NCIOM and NCMJ topics are decided. Michelle explained that infrequently the NCIOM is named in legislation to further examine a topic, but more often we have funders approach us with ideas, or NCDHHS needs assistance. Kaitlin explained that there is a different decision making process for the NCMJ, and the editorial board plays a large role in

selecting issue themes. Dr. Carrie Rosario commended the team for this work and noted the connection to the gaps identified in the 2021 organization assessment.

Legislative Health Policy Program (LHPF)

Michelle provided an update on the progress of the LHPF program, which started in 2017 and is held every other year. The program has seen participation from 15-20 legislators each session, with a good mix of Republicans and Democrats. The program covers fundamentals and goes in-depth on a few topics based on the legislators' interests.

Ivana reported that the first session of the current cohort was held last Monday. The cohort includes 22 legislators, making it the largest to date. Anita Bachman commended the team for the success of the program, noting its impact on the state of NC and highlighted it as a best practice that many other states can learn from.

Communications and NCMJ

Kaitlin Phillips provided an overview of the upcoming revamp of the NCMJ, funded by the Duke Endowment. Some of the recommendations for the revamp include improving brand identity through potentially changing the name of the journal; diversifying the platform, including the introduction of weekly newsletters; and improving information navigation.

Kaitlin also provided an overview of communications changes including early identification of audience for task forces; asking task force members to serve as spokespeople for the project; launch kit for task forces that was piloted with the Healthy Aging task force; and a press kit that was provided to all task force members, not just the media. Our evaluation consultant is beginning to work on evaluating the goals of our communications efforts and audience reach.

Update from the Executive Committee

Adam Sholar updated the search for a permanent President and CEO. Of the 16 applicants, 13 were screened initially. A much smaller group will proceed to the next interview round.

President's Report

Organizational Structure

Michelle noted ongoing modification to the organizational structure. Previously, all employees reported directly to the President/CEO, which led to some inefficiencies. The new structure divides the organization into three sections, each with its own leadership; these leaders report to the President/CEO and have supervisory responsibilities. This change, which is still being formalized through the UNC HR process, has already begun to be implemented with Michelle, Emily, and Kaitlin forming the initial leadership team. This new structure aims to distribute responsibilities more evenly and utilize everyone's strengths more effectively.

New Projects

A renewal application for the Legislative Health Policy Fellows grant was submitted to TDE in December. This grant will continue as it is, but with a new subcontract with Cape Fear Collective to create a district-specific dashboard of HNC 2030 data. Additional general operating funds have been secured from the BCBSNC Foundation, primarily to continue the work of Evolve after its grant finishes mid-year. A similar discussion is pending with KBR.

New projects are also in development, including a potential task force on veterans' health. This task force will focus on access to care, coordination of care across VA, TRICARE, and other forms of insurance, and mental health and social services for veterans. The Division of Mental Health has expressed interest in providing about half of the funding for this project.

Last week, the 2024 Opioid Research Agenda was launched in collaboration with the NC Association of County Commissioners, IPRC, and DPH/IVPB. The Immigrant Mental Health Network project with El Futuro also launched recently. This project aims to identify and address barriers to access for immigrants across the state.

Annual Meeting

Emily provided a recap of the 2023 annual meeting which was focused on the mental health and well-being of children. The agenda featured 45 speakers and 13 sessions. The meeting had nine sponsors, bringing in \$53k in sponsorships. The keynote speaker (Dr. Sandy Chung) has a large national presence but also regional ties. This year's annual meeting had a greater focus on legislative participation, with workshops replacing two panels and a special Q&A session for legislators with Dr. Chung. The national presence of the keynote and focus on legislative engagement were well received, and the staff hopes to replicate that in next year's agenda.

Emily concluded by saying that the date for this year's meeting will be announced at the next meeting, which will be held at McKimmon and free for board members to attend.

Strategic Discussion: Board Engagement

This portion of the meeting provided an opportunity for the newer members of the board to learn more about how to engage with NCIOM. Dr. Lori Byrd shared that she quickly developed a passion for engaging in the task force process. She values the opportunity to engage with different ideas and people across the state and believes her involvement with the institute has greatly enriched her work and personal life. Board member Tim Norris joined the NCIOM board two years ago and has since focused on enhancing the institute's connection with the General Assembly. He encouraged new board members to attend the annual meeting and actively seek ways to assist the institute.

Additional board members shared other ways to engage including serving on committees, providing consultation on how to best engage NCIOM members, and serving as subject matter experts on complex issues.

Adjournment

Brian McGinnis motioned to adjourn the meeting; Anita Bachman seconded. The meeting adjourned at 2:00pm.