

Board of Governors Meeting via Teleconference/Webinar

Monday, May 24, 2021

11:30 am - 4:30 pm ET

MINUTES

Board Members Present:

Christine Goertz, DC, PhD, *Chairperson*; Sharon Levine, MD, *Vice Chairperson*; Kara Ayers, PhD; Kate Berry; Tanisha Carino, PhD; Michael Lauer, MD (designee for Francis Collins, MD, PhD); Jennifer DeVoe, MD, DPhil; Alicia Fernandez, MD; Christopher Frieze, PhD, RN; Mike Herndon, DO; Russell Howerton, MD; Connie Hwang, MD, MPH; Michelle McMurry-Heath, MD, PhD; Barbara McNeil, MD, PhD; Karin Rhodes (designee for David Meyers, MD); David Meyers, MD; Eboni Price-Haywood, MD, MPH; James Schuster, MD, MBA; Ellen Sigal, PhD; Kathleen Troeger, MPH; Danny van Leeuwen, MPH, RN; Robert Zwolak, MD, PhD

Board Members Absent: James Huffman; Janet Woodcock, MD

Facilitator: Sonja Armbruster, MA

Agenda Item	Speakers
Welcome and Call to Order - Christine Goertz, DC, PhD, Board Chairperson	Dr. Goertz chaired and opened the meeting, welcomed all to the meeting of the PCORI Board of Governors and read the Chair Statement on Conflict of Interest. She then reviewed the meeting agenda.
Strategic Planning Discussions Overview and Structure - Nakela L. Cook, MD, MPH, Executive Director and Sharon Levine, MD, Board Vice Chairperson	Dr. Levine, Strategic Planning Committee (SPC) Co-Chair and Board Vice Chairperson, introduced the agenda item on strategic planning discussions. She indicated that the Board's discussion today will inform further development of the draft National Priorities, with a goal of bringing proposed draft National Priorities to the Board at its June 2021 meeting for a vote to post the proposed draft National Priorities for public comment. Dr. Cook, SPC Co-Chair and Executive Director, provided an overview of the draft National Priorities development process. The overview includes the input gathering process that informed the discussion to take place later in the day. Cook explained that the draft National Priorities will reflect National Priorities for Health, which can be advanced by the Research Agenda, which will be developed based on the National Priorities and finalized in the future after public comment. Cook presented the five draft National Priorities for Health: • Achieving Health Equity

	• Increasing Evidence for Existing Interventions and Emerging Innovations in Health • Building the Bridge from Research to Improved Health by Advancing the Science of Dissemination, Implementation and Health Communication • Enhancing Infrastructure to Accelerate Patient-Centered Outcomes Research • Advancing a Learning Health System The draft National Priorities are intended to address the following topics and/or concerns: 1) addressing disparities is more imperative than ever; 2) there is a need to address evidence gaps and time-sensitive decision-making; 3) getting the right information to the right people at the right time to make informed decisions; 4) strengthening healthcare infrastructure; 5) addressing the patient’s perspective of utilization of care. The discussions that followed the introduction were moderated by Ms. Sonja Armbruster. Dr. Goertz introduced Ms. Armbruster, a Health Sciences Educator in the Department of Public Health Sciences at Wichita State University, with a career in public health as well as a background in training and facilitation support for a variety of health-related organizations. Armbruster outlined the framework that would be used to support robust discussion by the Board of each proposed Priority, including introduction by a staff member, followed by a panel of a subset of Board members to respond, then followed by a full Board discussion and comment.
Discussion of Draft National Priorities: <i>Achieving Health Equity</i> Introductory remarks by Michele Orza, ScD Panelists: Kara Ayers, PhD Alicia Fernandez, MD	Dr. Orza, Chief of Staff and SPC member, provided an overview of the first draft priority, <i>Achieving Health Equity</i>, which will strengthen PCORI’s existing priority, Address Disparities. This priority is expected to include the intersection of health equity and the broader public health community. Board members discussed the need to build trust among stakeholders to address health equity, and that trust building will be necessary to address system design changes. Board members additionally discussed how health equity is at the intersection of social determinants of health (SDoH) and the healthcare system. There were discussions on the role that PCORI can play in shifting the mindset for dealing with health inequities in the healthcare and public health systems by focusing on people centered research (patients’ outcomes and all the people and stakeholders in the system). Board members noted that there is an extensive field of research which establishes the linkages between social determinants of health and poor health outcomes. Board members recommended PCORI think of how to disseminate and implement the research to find solutions. In their discussion, Board members reinforced the

	need to frame health equity research as comparative clinical effectiveness research (CER) within PCORI's scope.
Discussion of Draft National Priorities: <i>Increasing Evidence for Existing Interventions and Emerging Innovations in Health</i> Introductory remarks by Nakela L. Cook, MD, MPH Panelists: Kathleen Troeger, MPH Barbara McNeil, MD, PhD James Schuster, MD, MBA	Dr. Cook provided an overview of the <i>Increasing Evidence for Existing Interventions and Emerging Innovations in Health</i> priority, which aims to strengthen and expand CER related to innovations on the horizon and existing innovations with evidence gaps. This priority area is expected to focus on application of new technologies to support time sensitive decision-making where there are evidence vacuums, intended and unintended consequences of innovations, expand scope of stakeholder engagement, and foster equitable uptake of technologies. Board members commented on the challenges of research on innovation given the time that some research takes and considering PCORI's role given these challenges. There was extensive discussion about consideration of costs for patients and current payment barriers related to emerging innovations (e.g., coverage of medical devices by federal payers such as Medicare). Board members commented that there could be an opportunity for PCORI to partner with the Center for Medicare & Medicaid Innovation (CMMI) to inform payment policies. Board members suggested consideration of three key areas in generating evidence for existing and emerging innovations: 1) What do plans, physicians, or healthcare systems actually need in terms of increasing evidence; 2) Who will do what in terms of getting new evidence and what incentives do they need to get the new data, particularly for existing technologies; and 3) Who pays for these innovations. Additional suggestions included considering unintended consequences when evaluating the impact of emerging and existing technologies and thinking about measures of progress within this priority area.
Discussion of Draft National Priorities: <i>Building the Bridge from Research to Improved Health by Advancing the Science of Dissemination, Implementation, and Health Communication</i> Introductory remarks by Jean Slutsky, PA, MSPH Panelists: Jennifer DeVoe, MD, MPhil Christine Goertz, DC, PhD	Ms. Slutsky, Senior Advisor to the Executive Director and SPC member, provided an overview of the priority, <i>Building the Bridge from Research to Improved Health by Advancing the Science of Dissemination, Implementation, and Health Communication</i>, to ensure that findings ultimately lead to better-informed health decisions and achieve improved health outcomes. Board members reinforced that this priority is about the science and practice of dissemination, implementation, and communication. The importance of health equity in relation to this priority was also addressed noting that it is critical to consider how innovations and health information is distributed so that inequities are not exacerbated. To make progress towards this goal, Board members stated that PCORI has the opportunity to facilitate collaboration among multisector and multidisciplinary teams (public health, payers, technology, academic, etc.). Board members commented that PCORI should consider developing strategic partnerships with organizations and federal agencies with shared interests (e.g., Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation, Alan Alda

Danny van Leeuwen, MPH, RN	Center for Communications Science) and work with the Methodology Committee to determine how to measure uptake of findings into clinical care. Within this priority, Board members also suggested working at local levels to get information to those who need it and can act upon it such as local public health agencies and local healthcare systems.
Discussion of Draft National Priorities: <i>Enhancing Infrastructure to Accelerate Patient-Centered Outcomes Research</i> Introductory remarks by Laura Lyman Rodriguez, PhD Panelists: Connie Hwang, MD, MPH Eboni Price-Haywood, MD, MPH	Dr. Rodriguez, Interim Chief Program Support Officer, Senior Advisor to the Executive Director and SPC member, provided an overview of the <i>Enhancing Infrastructure to Accelerate Patient-Centered Outcomes Research</i> priority. The priority advanced the existing Accelerating Patient-Centered Outcomes Research and Methodological Research priority. She stated that this priority is expected to focus on three areas: 1) People, which includes health equity and the concept of investing in communities and community organizations with lived knowledge of health and the social environment; 2) Information, which is about building robust infrastructure and real-world data and better linkage in data infrastructure; and 3) Policies and Process, which entails enhancing internal organizational processes and programs, to make PCORI accessible to more stakeholders such as those not traditionally part of research, as well as influencing others to support inclusivity in health research infrastructure. Board members discussed that there should be consideration of partners in public health in order to expand impact in communities. Board members expressed the importance of ensuring that PCORnet[®] is as accessible as possible and to consider setting standards for how to define representativeness of a dataset so that it may have external generalizability. Board members also commented on the importance of supporting local patient and community-driven research as a way to make patient-centered outcomes research more sustainable. Learning from PCORI's past work on engagement and the knowledge generated from its engagement awards was also recommended to inform future work in this area.
Discussion of Draft National Priorities: <i>Advancing a Learning Health System</i> Introductory remarks by Steven Clauser, PhD, MPA Panelists: Tanisha Carino, PhD Sharon Levin, MD	Dr. Clauser, Healthcare Delivery and Disparities Research Program Director and SPC member, provided an overview of the priority, <i>Advancing a Learning Health System</i>, which includes building systems of care that are designed to meet needs of people in communities, and to extend upon PCORI's existing priority of Improving Healthcare Systems. There was extensive discussion on whether the priority should address the health system (to include public health) or the healthcare system (within the bounds of clinical care). Discussion took place around the concept that engagement with health systems could have farther-reaching impacts and address the multiple factors that influence health. Board members iterated the point that solely focusing on the healthcare system could narrow PCORI's work in this area in a way that may weaken PCORI's impact and Board members

	expressed an interest in maintaining the “learning health system” term, not narrowing it to “learning health care system.” Board members recommended refining the boundaries of the priority to inform and support PCORI’s specific niche in the health system and to consider what PCORI can deliver and what impact PCORI can have. Board members expressed an interest in focusing on health outcomes as a component of this priority.
Wrap-up and Adjourn - Christine Goertz, DC, PhD	Meeting ended at 4:30 pm Eastern

Minutes were approved by the PCORI Board of Governors 06-15-2021