

Board of Governors Meeting via Teleconference / Webinar

Tuesday July 21, 2020

1:00 - 2:00 pm ET

MINUTES

Board Members Present:

Christine Goertz, DC, PhD, *Chairperson*; Sharon Levine, MD, *Vice Chairperson*; Kara Ayers, PhD; Larry Becker; Michael Lauer, MD (designee for Francis Collins, MD, PhD); Francis Collins, MD, PhD; Jennifer DeVoe, MD, DPhil; Alicia Fernandez, MD; Christopher Frieze, PhD, RN; Michael Herndon, DO; Russell Howerton, MD; Gail Hunt; Freda Lewis-Hall, MD; David Meyers, MD (designee for Gopal Khanna, MBA); Barbara McNeil, MD, PhD; Grayson Norquist, MD, MSPH; Ellen Sigal, PhD; Kathleen Troeger, MPH; Robert Zwolak, MD, PhD

Board Members Absent:

Michelle McMurry-Heath, MD, PhD; Janet Woodcock, MD

Methodology Committee Chair and Vice Chair: Steve Goodman, MD, MHS, PhD; Robin Newhouse, PhD, RN

Agenda Item	PCORI Speakers
Call to Order, Roll Call, and Welcome Consider for Approval: - June Board Minutes - Christine Goertz, DC, PhD, <i>Chairperson</i> Consider for Approval: - Bylaws Amendments - Sharon Levine, MD, <i>Chair, Governance Committee and Mary Hennessey, Esq., General Counsel</i>	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. <i>The following motion was made by Russell Howerton and seconded by Sharon Levine.</i> Motion: Approve minutes from the June 23, 2020 Board of Governors meeting. <i>Approved by a majority vote of the voting Board members by voice vote (no opposed; no abstentions). Alicia Fernandez was not present for this vote.</i> Dr. Sharon Levine introduced this agenda item proposing to amend PCORI's Bylaws. She noted that, as part of its emergency planning processes and responses to COVID-19, PCORI has been assessing its ability to be functional in the event of unexpected absences of staff, including absences of Executive staff. She noted that an area identified for attention related to the absence of the key corporate officers identified in the Bylaws. These corporate officer positions are tied to certain Executive Staff positions, i.e. the Executive Director serves as the President, the Chief Operating Officer serves as the Treasurer, and the General Counsel serves as the Secretary. Levine then introduced Mary Hennessey to further explain the proposed amendments to PCORI's Bylaws that have been recommended by the Governance Committee. Mrs. Hennessey noted that, in addition to the ex-officio officer positions outlined in the Bylaws, the current Bylaws also enable the Board to appoint other officers or assistant officers to perform duties to assist in the duties, but do not directly

	enable assistant officers to exercise powers if the lead officer is absent. Therefore, in order to be able to perform necessary duties, such as executing corporate documents, Hennessey explained that the proposed amendment would enable the Chairperson to appoint an assistant officer if the lead officer is absent, unwilling or unable to perform their duties for any reason. She further noted that the Board retains ultimate control as it has the power to remove any assistant officer so appointed. <i>The following motion was made by Barbara McNeil and seconded by Robert Zwolak.</i> Motion: Approve the Proposed Amendments to the PCORI Bylaws. <i>Approved by a majority vote of the voting Board members by roll call vote (17 in favor; no opposed; no abstentions). Alicia Fernandez was not present for this vote.</i>
Update on Funding of COVID-19 Enhancements - Nakela Cook, MD, MPH, Executive Director	Dr. Cook shared the status of COVID-19 Enhancement funding as of July 15, 2020. She reported that \$24.3M in total has been awarded between the focus areas of Research (36 awards at \$16M), Engagement (30 awards at \$3.9M) and Dissemination & Implementation (10 awards at \$4.3M). Cook then outlined of this funding, which health conditions, as well as intervention strategies were being funded through the Enhancement Funding.
Strategic Planning Discussion - Nakela Cook, MD, MPH	Dr. Cook described the process for identifying National Priorities, one of the components encompassed in strategic planning. The presentation provided an overview of the timeline and planned activities that are expected to comprise the strategic planning process including engaging patients and stakeholders, identifying the National Priorities, establishing and developing the Research Agenda, and commitment planning as well as other related strategic discussions. Cook highlighted the different components that guided PCORI's work and described how the components work in harmony to advance funding patient-centered comparative clinical effectiveness research (CER). The National Priorities are broad areas that encompass the CER PCORI supports which inform the Research Agenda, a more specific set of topic areas that address research priorities. The National Priorities and the Research Agenda help frame the topic development process which, informed by input from patient and stakeholder partners, articulates focused areas for funding. The Board discussed the process and potential framework for identifying National Priorities. Comments were made on the importance of learning from PCORI's existing project portfolio and the myriad of efforts over the past decade to fund patient-centered outcomes research. Board members noted PCORI has had success in funding rigorous, patient-centered CER and lessons should be drawn from those to inform discussions on identifying National Priorities. Discussion also took place on the need to consider how the National Priorities could relate to the broader public health environment since health outcomes can be impacted in ways other than through the formal healthcare system. Board members stressed the need to garner diverse input from both the public and stakeholder communities to help inform discussions on identifying the

	National Priorities. Cook noted that, in addition to formal public comment periods, several opportunities for public input were planned for the coming months. PCORI's dissemination and implementation efforts were also discussed and seen as a critical part of advancing the National Priorities as the work promoted uptake of PCORI-funded research into clinical practice and helped get the information to the populations that need it most. Discussion closed with Board members encouraging additional analysis on the current project portfolio to help inform deliberations as the Board continued identifying National Priorities.
Wrap up and Adjournment - Christine Goertz, DC, PhD	Meeting adjourned at 2:00 pm.

Minutes were approved by the PCORI Board of Governors 09-14-2020