

Board of Governors Meeting via Teleconference / Webinar

Tuesday, October 26, 2021

1:00-3:30 pm Eastern

MINUTES

Board Members Present:

Christine Goertz, DC, PhD, *Chairperson*; Sharon Levine, MD, *Vice Chairperson*; Kara Ayers, PhD; Kate Berry; Michael Lauer, MD (designee for Francis Collins, MD, PhD); Jennifer DeVoe, MD, DPhil; Alicia Fernandez, MD; Mike Herndon, DO; Russell Howerton, MD; James Huffman; Connie Hwang, MD, MPH; Barbara McNeil, MD, PhD; 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: Tanisha Carino, PhD; Christopher Fries, PhD, RN; Michelle McMurry-Heath, MD, PhD; Janet Woodcock, MD

Facilitator for Discussion of Draft Research Agenda: Sonja Armbruster, MA

Agenda Item	PCORI Speakers
Welcome and Call to Order Consider for Approval: - Minutes of the September 27-28, 2021 Board Meetings <i>Christine Goertz, DC, PhD, Board Chairperson</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. With no additions or corrections to the minutes offered, Goertz then presented the minutes of the September 27 and 28, 2021 Board meeting for approval. <i>The following motion was made by Sharon Levine and seconded by Robert Zwolak.</i> Motion: Approve the Minutes from the September 27 and 28, 2021 PCORI Board Meeting <i>Approved by a majority vote of the voting Board members by voice vote (no opposed; no abstentions). Barbara McNeil and Kathleen Troeger were not present during this vote.</i>
Consider for Adoption: National Priorities for Health <i>Nakela L. Cook, MD, MPH, Executive Director and Sharon Levine, MD,</i>	Dr. Levine provided opening remarks and acknowledged the efforts of the Board of Governors and Strategic Planning Committee to get to a milestone in the strategic planning process. Dr. Cook provided an overview of the strategic planning process up to the discussion to consider the proposed National Priorities for Health for adoption. Cook

Strategic Planning Committee Co-Chair

reviewed the process for garnering stakeholder input that helped to identify the proposed National Priorities for Health. PCORI received input from a range of stakeholders beginning in the summer of 2020 to identify and inform the National Priorities for Health in addition to holding discussions at Board of Governors meetings and several other activities to inform the process including a collaboration with the National Academy of Medicine to produce the Priorities on the Health Horizon meeting series. Cook reviewed the key takeaways from the analysis of the public feedback (which consisted of public input and a formal 60-day public comment period) and the areas of revisions to the proposed National Priorities based on public guidance. Cook reviewed the following key takeaways from public guidance, including takeaways from comments submitted during the public comment period:

- Within the health research enterprise, PCORI has a unique role to play with respect to each of the National Priorities for Health;
- The National Priorities for Health present challenges and opportunities for comparative clinical effectiveness research;
- Advancing the National Priorities for Health will depend upon a few key success factors;
- There is robust support for the proposed National Priorities for Health, some clarification of terminology and concepts will strengthen this agreement;
- Stakeholders want to continue to be fully engaged in providing guidance on research directions, methodologies, and topics.

Cook reviewed the supporting insights from stakeholders to provide additional information on the feedback provided. Much of the feedback was relevant to areas across strategic planning such as the National Priorities, the Research Agenda, the Research Project Agenda, and Action Plans. In particular, however, PCORI heard from stakeholders that with countless avenues for the rapid, widespread sharing of research results, opinions, and hearsay, and their implications for clinical practice, the need to prevent misinformation, misunderstanding, mistrust, and misguided decisions is imperative. Cook noted that PCORI also heard

	the elements and purpose of an integrated learning health system need further clarification. Based on these areas of feedback, the Strategic Planning Committee considered revisions to the goal statements for two National Priorities which Cook outlined as follows: The goal statement for <i>Advance the Science of Dissemination, Implementation, and Health Communication</i> was revised to include the effective sharing of comparative clinical effectiveness research results (CER) for public understanding and uptake into practice. The revision supported uptake of trustworthy CER results among the public for decision-making. The goal statement for <i>Accelerate Progress Towards an Integrated Learning Health System</i> was revised to include language for a health system that understands and serves the needs and preference of individuals. The revision bolsters the purpose of an integrated health system, emphasizing the role of understanding preferences of individuals. The Board noted the suggested revisions reflected the feedback from public and stakeholders. <i>The following motion was made by Danny van Leeuwen and seconded by Alicia Fernandez:</i> Motion: Adopt the proposed National Priorities for Health <i>Approved by a majority vote of the voting Board members by roll call vote (17 in favor; 0 opposed; 0 abstentions; 0 recusals). Barbara McNeil and Kathleen Troeger were not present during this vote.</i>
Facilitated Discussion of Draft Research Agenda - Nakela L. Cook, MD, MPH and Sonja Armbruster, MA, Facilitator Panelists: Alicia Fernandez, MD Russell Howerton, MD Danny van Leeuwen, MPH, RN Laura Lyman Rodriguez, PhD, Senior Advisor to the Executive Director Barbara McNeil, MD, PhD	Dr. Cook introduced the draft Research Agenda and provided an overview of the structure for the Board's facilitated discussion. The Research Agenda provides a framework for achieving progress on the National Priorities for Health specifically through the strategy of funding comparative clinical effectiveness research (CER). The Research Agenda helps guide the development of a continuously relevant Research Project Agenda via an on-going, stakeholder-engaged process. Cook reviewed the parameters that were considered for the draft Research Agenda, as well as the other information that was used to inform its development including stakeholder input. The discussions that followed were moderated by Ms. Sonja Armbruster. Cook introduced 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 anticipated discussion sequence for the Research Agenda. Strategic Planning Committee (SPC) members took the lead in introducing a pair of Research Agenda statements by providing opening remarks. Following each pairs' remarks, large group discussion by the Board took place. • Dr. Fernandez presented statements: 'Fund research that aims to prevent and eliminate health and health care disparities' and 'Fund research that aims to achieve health equity' • Dr. Howerton presented statements: 'Fund research that focuses on the preservation of health, promotion of well-being, or addresses health drivers that occur where people live, work, and play' and 'Fund research that examines the diverse burdens and clinical and economic impacts important to patients' • Mr. van Leeuwen presented statements: 'Fund research that examines approaches for communicating evidence such that patients, clinicians, and the broader health community can access, understand, and act on research findings' and 'Fund research that integrates implementation science to promote the uptake of findings' • Dr. Lyman-Rodriguez presented statements: 'Fund research that builds the evidence base for innovative and emerging interventions' and 'Fund research that fills patient- and stakeholder-prioritized evidence gaps.' • Dr. McNeil presented the statements: 'Fund research that optimizes and links the full range of data resources to gain a more holistic view of patient health and healthcare' and 'Fund research that uses data representative of diverse patient populations and settings to generate more inclusive evidence.' Discussions focused on three leading questions: 'What excites you?', 'What is missing?', and 'How does it position PCORI to build a continuously relevant research project
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	portfolio?”. Much dialogue took place around the draft statement relates to health equity and eliminating disparities. Board members specifically focused on PCORI’s unique opportunity to establish metrics around health equity to track progress towards these objectives. Looking across the five discussions, several themes emerged related to revisions to the draft Research Agenda. Board members suggested reviewing the statements for overlapping areas of focus and to see what, if any, could be combined to allow for a cohesive Agenda. Board members also highlighted the benefits of the statements being action-oriented and solution focused. There was a rich discussion on the appropriate level of preciseness needed in these statements and how to find the balance between being too prescriptive and the risk of misinterpretation by stakeholders and the public. Board members suggested reviewing the draft Research Agenda for clarity and conciseness where possible. The structure of the Research Agenda, 10 statements with accompanying characteristics, was also discussed. A suggestion was made to consider if the Research Agenda should itself be comprised of only the statements; the descriptive characteristics could be used to provide additional context but would not be part of the formal Agenda. Board members noted that the draft Research Agenda was in line with stakeholders’ input, covered timely topics, and that they looked forward to the next iteration. The SPC will use the input from the Board’s discussion to revise the draft Research Agenda. The draft Research Agenda is expected to be brought back to the Board of Governors during the December 2021 Board Meeting to be considered for approval for posting for public comment.
Wrap-up - Christine Goertz, DC, PhD	Meeting ended at 3:28 pm Eastern

Minutes were approved by the PCORI Board of Governors 12-02-2021