

Community Partner Mentoring Workgroup
Meeting Minutes
March 10, 2008

Members Present

Susan Grust, GRASS Routes

Debra Tanner Brinson, Peoples Caring

Steve Updegrave, Community Member, Yale School of Medicine Community Research

CCPH Staff

Cate Clegg, Membership Coordinator

Lisa Moy, Graduate Research Assistant

Introduction

The meeting started off with a recap of the last call by **Lisa** (See Meeting Minutes for February 11, 2008).

Susan highlighted, for this call and for future calls, that the purpose of these calls is to connect people and that all callers will respect each other. She emphasized that all callers should feel welcome and that these calls are set up as a level playing field for all participants regardless of history of involvement in working with communities, everyone at every level of experience will be respected and listened to. She also emphasizes the need for patience in this process. This message should be conveyed to all interested callers and should encourage more participants on future calls.

Online Network Mentoring Proposal

Susan gave some background on the proposal and explained the main purpose of the proposal was to discuss how to put mentoring systems into place. A major issue with implementing mentoring systems is the issue of diversity including diversity issues surrounding race, rural vs. urban and/or experience. Now that this discussion has been started with the proposal, what to do now with this information and the proposal itself?

Steve and Lisa discussed the challenge with identifying an online platform for disseminating the information in the proposal.

Susan also brought up another issue with getting the Mentoring Proposal in action, which is funding. She highlighted that one of the goals of the proposal was to get people together in person and to be able to have discussions face-to-face rather than solely through electronic communication. Finding funding for this is a problem.

Susan, overall, presented to the group the question of whether or not the proposal should continue to be pushed forward. She presented this as an action item for the group to be considered.

ACTION ITEM: How should the group proceed from here in terms of disseminating the information found in the Mentoring Proposal?

Steve brought up the point that the authors of the proposal needs to decide how many personal/institutional resources they want to commit to pushing things forward with the proposal, and this is a main consideration in deciding next steps.

Steve suggested a good way to get information out to the public on this topic (and thought it might be financially feasible) would be to create a section on the existing website that would include frequently asked questions, or would post existing conversations on the topic with an “open forum” section that would allow further discussion/act as a resource. He imagines this as a self-running discussion site.

Lisa agreed this would be a good option, but mentioned she has already been looking into the idea for other CCPH projects, and to set up a system like this proves to be a bit more difficult than she had hoped. She did agree to discuss this idea further with Kristine.

Lisa moved the discussion forward. She asked **Cate** to update the group on the CCPH Community Partner Project.

Cate gave some background on this project. This project is intended to give a snapshot look into who CCPH’s community partners are and how they are working to better the health of communities. Through administration of a survey, this project will also address how CCPH can better serve our community partners, what sorts of resources are needed and examine how CCPH can provide more support to these community partners. **Cate** emphasized that the project is still in developing stages, but any information/suggestions/work done in this group would be able to be expressed in this report.

Conference Calls

Susan moved on to the next agenda item, choosing topics for future conference calls. She mentioned that Kristine had suggested that a list be published with calls on certain dates to be focused around particular informational topics. Callers could this way be engaged around specific topics of interest. **Susan** presented two questions to the group to be discussed:

- What do you think of this idea?
- What would be the format of these calls?
 - Open discussion on readings/materials sent out before the call?
 - Have one presenter; have callers dial in to listen, and then hold a question/answer session at the end?

After some discussion, the group felt that a presentation-style format might be easiest for the majority of these calls. Main points of this brainstorm are as follows:

- Each call would feature a topic of discussion
- Calls would have a main presenter (also discussed the possibility of a panel of presenters) who would be an “expert” in the field
- All calls would allow for a discussion and/or question and answer session.

- All calls would be sure to be focused on subjects that would allow callers to “take away” something, would be on practical, applicable subjects
- Group suggested a cap on the number of callers could be placed on calls if needed
- Prior to the “presentation,” an agenda on the topic would be created based on learning objectives or questions submitted by the callers beforehand—the presentation would be tailored to address the caller’s identified needs/questions/suggestions
- Prior to the “presentation,” callers would be provided with talking points, or a power-point slide show on the presentation to be given
- Resources will be provided to the callers on topic area beforehand or after the presentation

Suggestions on topic areas for calls are as follows:

- How to set up a mentoring situation (mentoring models) in callers’ own region/state/city
- How many community-university partnerships have been created around policy change and how?
 - This topic would discuss how to create community-university partnerships on issues of social and policy change
- How to involve community partners and community groups in research?
 - This topic would also address issues of capacity
- How to get involved in a CTSA?

Susan suggested that on the topic of CTSA’s, it might be a good idea to combine the CP Policy and Mentoring groups to get maximum input.

NEXT STEPS:

- **Lisa** will send out the ideas of the topical calls to the CP Mentoring listserv for feedback from all workgroup members.
- **Lisa** will discuss the idea of a CTSA-themed conference call series with the CP Policy workgroup.

NEXT CALL:

Monday April 14, 2008 @ 12:30 PST/3:30 EST

Agenda and conference call information will be distributed via the listserv prior to the call.