Andy Hill Cancer Research Endowment
Board Meeting Minutes – October 30, 2019

The following board members, constituting a quorum, were present: Elaine Albert (phone), Fred Appelbaum, Lori Brown (phone), Thomas Brown, David Byrd, Weihang Chai (phone), Carol Dahl (phone), Jim Hendricks (phone), Steve Harr, Eunice Hostetter, Jennifer Kampsula Wong (phone)

Board Members Absent: Leslie Alexandre

CARE Staff Attendees: Peter Choi, Laura Flores Cantrell

Guest Attendees: Julia Terlinchamp (WA Dept of Commerce); Sandra Adix (WA AAG); Chelsea Hager (Insight Strategic Partners); Jay Mendoza (Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center); Katherine Briant (Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center)

Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center, 1100 Fairview Ave. North, Thomas Building, Sze East Conference Room (D1-084), Seattle, WA | Wednesday, October 30, 2019 3:00 p.m.–5:00 p.m.

1. Welcome

A quorum being present, the meeting was called to order at 3:04 p.m.

2. Board Announcements

Thomas Brown announced that he has taken a position with an out-of-state organization but will continue to reside in Washington State and maintain his appointment with the Institute for Systems Biology. He indicated his desire to continue to serve on the CARE Board but will need to step down from his current board seat, which is appointed from nominations by entities or systems that provide health care delivery services. Laura will work with Thomas Brown and Governor’s office on a transition.

Weihang Chai announced that she will leave Washington State University and take a position at Loyola University Chicago, Stritch School of Medicine. Her last day at WSU and as a member of the board is today, October 30. Laura Flores Cantrell noted that the Governor’s office is in communication with Washington State University’s President’s Office to identify a person to fill the seat.

3. CARE Update

Laura Flores Cantrell provided a CARE Program update.

- The Department of Commerce is working with the AAG and agency staff to identify a resolution for agency authority and other impacts of statutory changes from last session. Empire Health Foundation committed to bridge the program administrator contract costs until legislative solution can be reached. As it currently stands, CARE will receive dedicated revenue from the new tax on vapor products.
- Program Administrator Update.
Empire Health Foundation has begun the search for a new President of the Foundation. Jeff Bell is serving as Interim President.

Empire Health Foundation’s board of directors approved an unrestricted investment of just over $150,000 into the CARE Fund for calendar year 2020. This is in addition to the program administration bridge funding.

Empire Health Foundation settled its lawsuit with Community Health Systems, Inc. The settlement will relieve medical debts for some patients and establish a new 501(c)4 foundation, Empire Health Community Advocacy Fund. As a 501(c)4, the new organization will have an unlimited lobbying expenditure. The CARE board members discussed advocacy and the guidelines for state boards and commissions like the CARE Fund. There was a suggestion that an informational session on lobbying might be beneficial to board members. Staff will explore the options.

An overview of the Grant Cycle Infographic and the Targeted Funding board calendar was provided.

CARE will host a reception at the Executive Residence (Governor’s Mansion) January 30, 2020 (5:30–7:00 p.m.) to introduce the CARE Program and its impact to legislators and other stakeholders.

4. Consent Agenda

Fred Appelbaum presented the June 26, 2019 board meeting minutes for approval.

MOTION: A motion to approve the June 26, 2019 CARE Board Meeting Minutes as presented was made by Tom Brown, seconded by Eunice Hostetter, and unanimously approved.

Fred Appelbaum presented the proposed 2020 CARE Board Meeting schedule for approval. The 2020 CARE Board Meetings schedule was approved by consensus.

5. Ad Hoc Committee to appoint AAAS reviewers (Breakthrough 1)

Laura Flores Cantrell made a request for volunteers to serve on the ad hoc committee to review and appoint the scientific advisory committee members who will evaluate the Breakthrough Research Continued Funding applications. Jim Hendricks and David Byrd volunteered to serve on the ad hoc committee. The committee was approved by consensus.

6. Board Governance Discussion

David Byrd, as a member of the ad hoc committee on governance, provided a report on the process for developing the CARE bylaws and highlighted a few key recommendations made by the committee.

There was a discussion regarding the proposed vice chair officer position and the need for clarifying leadership responsibility between the chair and the vice chair. There was consensus that language should be added to the bylaws clarifying the chair’s accountability and that of the vice chair. CARE staff will work with Sandra Adix (AAG) to draft the appropriate language.
MOTION: A motion to approve the CARE Bylaws, revised to add language clarifying accountability between the chair and vice chair roles, was made by Tom Brown, seconded by Eunice Hostetter, and unanimously approved.

7. Grantmaking Presentation: Jason Mendoza, MD, MPH

Dr. Jason Mendoza, Director of the Health Disparities Research Center at the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center presented on cancer disparities in Washington State.

There was broad discussion regarding cancer disparities by various group characteristics and the issue of cancer care access in Washington state.

8. Distinguished Researchers Cohort 4 RFP Discussion

Peter Choi presented the revised Distinguished Researchers Program Description.

There was a discussion regarding whether cancer disparities should be the criterion or one criterion among others for this funding opportunity. There was additional discussion regarding scoring and whether the disparities scoring criterion might influence researchers to address a disparity in their research. There was a recommendation that language be added to the program description in order to clearly state the board’s desire for a cancer disparities focus for this funding opportunity.

MOTION: A motion to approve the Distinguished Researchers Cohort 4 Program, revised to add a clear statement that cancer disparities is a focus as reflected in the scoring, was made by Tom Brown, seconded by Eunice Hostetter, and unanimously approved.

Discussion regarding the supplemental award was tabled until after the Distinguished Researchers Cohort 4 Request for Application is released.

9. Legislative Update

Chelsea Hager provided a legislative update, including the implications of the Governor’s Executive Order and subsequent State Board of Health decision related to a statewide ban on flavored vaping products.

10. Public Comment

There were no members of the public present.

11. Adjourn

Meeting Adjourned 5:10 p.m.

I certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the minutes approved by the CARE Board of Directors at a regular meeting of the board on December 11, 2019.

Eunice Hostetter, Secretary

Date 2/7/2020