
Meeting called to order at 2:32pm.

VDH Budget Discussion:

Changes from our previous review: (Rhonda)

- Because of changeover from Tobacco MSA to Global Commitment, this budget took quite a bit of work for our business manager to do this. He has been working on this since March but it was complicated because there are rules as to what can be in the Global Commitment column.
- Our evaluator, JSI, received a slight increase up to $145K. Through or collaboration with AOE we wanted to simplify and have one less contractor in the mix. So, instead of having a youth training contractor, we were able to add that component to JSI under the existing contract.
- We will be repeating the Local Opinion Leaders Survey, in collaboration with Alcohol & Drug Abuse Prevention (ADAP) – they will be paying for half of the survey.
- Since March and until this last three weeks, new IT requirements came down that we have to comply with. We already went out to bid a contract, however, University of Massachusetts would not meet the IT requirements. They decided not to contract with us. VDH has worked closely with Blueprint for Health for hospitals to still access these funds for tobacco treatment training. They can choose, more flexibility. Working on a MOU between us and Blueprint.

Discussion: Ginny Lyons – On the evaluation but within each of the grants given is there also evaluation? Is that evaluation separate from the $145k? (Rhonda) We do eval in cessation and address prevalence among Medicaid insured. Prevention evaluating among non-competitive grants to areas of high disparity. Down and Dirty initiative. $145k includes everything we’ve been talking about. We do include monitoring and process evaluation in our grants contacts, but each one does not have an evaluation plan.

Amy – Under “total expenditures” there is a deficit of $93k, what is that? (Rhonda) The new process required an indirect placeholder on CDC funding. Help ensure that staffing and everything associated with it is covered. It is related to cost allocation for indirect. Nothing will be removed to meet the placeholder.
Amy – Under the “total direct costs” row, even though much of the costs have been shifted to the Global Commitment column, the total direct cost line MSA line has still increased. (Rhonda/Amy) – Rescue line item has shifted its costs, an increase in the MSA column and a decrease in the Global Commitment column. Certain things that don’t meet Global Commitment Criteria.

Amy – I am concerned to have everything under Global Commitment because it is not as stable. Ginny Lyons agrees.

Ginny Lyons- Joint Fiscal Committee can make a change to this at any time. **Motion to approve the budget as drafted on July 13th but we have concerns about so much of the budget coming from Global Commitment than from MSA Alexi seconds.**

Discussion – Helen - we should make that two separate motions.

Ginny – withdraws initial motion.

Ginny – **Motion to approve the budget as presented. Alexi seconded it.**

No further discussion

Vote: No nays, Abstention none, all in favor.

Ginny - **Motion to register our concerns about so much of the budget being dependent on Global Commitment funding rather than on Master Settlement Agreement funds. Greg seconds.**

Discussion: Helen reminded everyone that in terms of funding streams, the Strategic Contribution Fund payments, roughly $11 million per year, ended in 2017. Also, all MSA funds are based on cigarette sales volumes and are a shrinking funding stream.

Vote: Bob abstains, Helen Abstains, Rhonda Abstains, none opposed: All others approve. **Movement passes and budget passes.**

The Board wishes all the best to Erin, as today is her last day with the Board. Thank you for all you have done with us and for us over the past 9 months.

The Board is taking a break over the near future and has no meetings scheduled. Scott, Kate and Alex will continue to pursue avenues that explore advocacy opportunities. Amy will follow up with the Secretary of the Administration about our inability to meet our statutory requirements and will include our concern about relying on Global Commitment funds to sustain our program. Please don’t yet count out the Board, but enjoy the break from meeting for a while. Thanks across the board.

Meeting adjourned: 3pm