

North Carolina Policy Collaboratory Advisory Board

Meeting Minutes October 15, 2018 UNC Service Center of Excellence Carrboro, NC

Advisory Board members in attendance were: Al Segars (chair), Don Hobart, Reggie Holley, Jeff Hughes, and Brad Ives. Advisory Board members joining by phone were: Anita Brown-Graham, Jaye Cable, and Rick Luettich.

Guests in attendance were: Jason Surratt (UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health) and Mary Galey (UNC Student).

Other UNC and Collaboratory staff in attendance were: Laurie Farrar, Emily Harnish, Kasia Grzebyk, Allison Reid, Steve Wall, Jeff Warren, and Melanie Wright.

Segars began the meeting at 9:05. Segars welcomed members and guests and asked for a short round of introductions of all those in attendance.

Segars reminded the Board of the Conflict of Interest policy and noted that the policy was not meant to prohibit Board members from leading Collaboratory projects, with the exception of the chair.

Director's Report

Ives began his presentation with an update on the research projects funded by the Collaboratory immediately after Hurricane Florence, including supporting projects in which Chancellor Carol Folt had designated as a priority. Ives noted that since Hurricane Matthew the Collaboratory has allocated more than \$800,000 to research projects designed to better prepare the state's residents for future severe storm events.

Ives referenced the work of the staff in building up the research team for the \$5 million GenX project. He also thanked Advisory Board members for their assistance in identifying timely research projects across campus that merit consideration by the Collaboratory for funding. Ives stated that the Collaboratory has several legislative reports due by the end of the year.

Hobart inquired about one of the hurricane projects and the funding of Division of Emergency Management. Warren responded that the Collaboratory has authority to fund entities outside the UNC System, and in this specific project was also partnering with a researcher from NC A&T. Segars noted the amount of attention Collaboratory projects were getting on campus and in the media.

PFAST Network Project Report

Surratt began with providing information about his background as an air chemist and how his previous experience works well to serve as the lead on the PFAST project. He provided an overview of the Network team from across multiple campuses and identified specific project teams. Surratt noted that the teams are closely aligned with the specific study directives outlined in the legislation.

Surratt outlined the timetable for the project stating that several of the teams were still undergoing peer review of their research plans. He stated that a website for the project would soon be live and that the goal was to begin taking water samples in November.

Hughes requested that water utilities be engaged with the water sampling components of this project. Wall responded that the researchers had been meeting with officials from the League of Municipalities and with utilities across the state.

Ives noted the high-profile nature of this project and the importance of communicating findings to communities in a transparent manner. Hobart asked about the distinction between research and enforcement samples. Warren responded that the research samples could not be used in an enforcement action but would be shared with DEQ if further sampling was called for.

Collaboratory Funding Update

Wright stated that this is a new role for her and that she has been leading weekly meetings with Collaboratory staff to ensure the accounting of projects is being properly handled. Warren thanked the UNC Finance team for their support

Warren provided an overview of the Collaboratory research projects for 2018-19. Warren then detailed the budget of the Collaboratory over the last 3 years, which totals more than \$12.5 to research projects across the university system. Warren stated the Collaboratory has supported 71 projects and broke those projects down into groupings of:

Hurricane Recovery and Planning	Coastal and Oyster	Jordan Lake
Habitat	Energy	Water Quality
Water Quantity	PFAS/GenX	

Board Discussion

The Board engaged in a discussion about making a legislative request to the General Assembly for continued funding of the matching grant program. Segars began the discussion by asking what dollar figure was most appropriate.

Brown-Graham asked whether the Board could independently make this request given certain university protocols. The Board agreed with this point and Ives suggested starting the process with a letter to UNC Administration. Holley supported the suggestion for a letter and recommended continual conversations with university and state leaders to inform them of the work of the Collaboratory. Luettich stated that the Chancellor was supportive of the Collaboratory.

Segars asked for approval of the drafting of a letter and the request for an annual matching grant program. The Board unanimously approved the motion.

The Board then engaged in a discussion of how best to transmit findings and policy recommendations from the funded research projects. Segars expressed his support for emphasizing the results and findings of the many research projects the Collaboratory has funded, including one-page summaries.

Holley stated that he trusted staff to share recommendations with policy-makers when appropriate. He stressed the need to inform legislative leaders about the outcomes of projects. The Board discussed following a model of providing policy options and recommendations but staying clear of advocating specific recommendations.

Hughes pointed to the work that he and Brown-Graham do with the School of Government and stressed the importance of the Collaboratory getting engaged at the policy level. The Board agreed to revisit this topic at its next meeting.

Segars state the next Board meeting would be held in December. He adjourned the meeting at 11:15.