

North Carolina Policy Collaboratory Advisory Board

Meeting Minutes

June 10, 2020

Via Zoom

The Collaboratory Advisory Board held a virtual meeting on June 10, 2020. Board members on the video call were: Al Segars (chair), Anita Brown-Graham, Jaye Cable, Greg Characklis, Don Hobart, Mark Little, Rick Luettich, and Mike Piehler.

Other UNC and Collaboratory staff on the video call were: Nate Knuffman, Jeff Warren, Steve Wall, Julia Maron and Claire Bradley.

Members of the UNC Advisory Committee for COVID-19 on the video call were: Terry Magnuson (OVCR), Joyce Tan (OVCR), Chris Clemens (A&S), Penny Gordon-Larsen (SPH), Blossom Damania (SOM), Shannon Wallet (ASOD), Kim Brouwer (ESOP).

Members of the UNC System on the video call were: Melicia Glover (WSSU), Todd Telemeco (UNC-P), Deepak Kumar (NCCU), Todd Linker (NCA&T), Kuldeep Ruwat (ECSU), Amy Lanou (UNC-A), Afua Arhin (FSU).

Outside Attendees on the call were: Lynn Bonner (News & Observer)

Chair's Remarks

Chair Al Segars began the meeting at 10:05 and welcomed board members and panelists. Segars noted the UNC Conflict of Interest policy reminder which governs Collaboratory board members.

Segars asked for approval of the January 2020 meeting minutes.

Segars provided an overview of the meeting agenda and outlined the purpose for the meeting. He stated that no votes would be taken and that the meeting was intended to serve as a discussion forum about the process of allocating the COVID-19 funds. Segars recognized the critical role that the Office of Vice Chancellor for Research had in helping identify important and timely projects in conjunction with the research deans.

Legislative Background

Executive Director Jeff Warren detailed the work and discussions that led to the funding of the \$29 million for COVID-19 research. He discussed the Collaboratory's efforts to identify personal protective equipment from university labs for use by medical workers and the launch of two COVID-19 research pilot projects.

The legislature appropriated funds through House bill 1043 and listed four areas for funding of projects:

- Treatments or counter measures
- Vaccines
- Community testing
- Other research and activity monitoring

Funds allocated pursuant to this legislation must be spent by December 30, 2020. Warren provided an update on the efforts that immediately followed the appropriation to begin identifying proposals at UNC-CH and across the UNC System. Warren referenced that generally 70% of external research funding is brought in at UNC-CH and that figure was used as a starting point to allocate funds at UNC-CH and across the system.

UNC-Chapel Hill Advisory Committee

Terry Magnuson discussed the role of his office and the research deans in identifying projects for funding. He detailed how decisions were made including a focus on established programs that could deliver results in the six-month timeframe dictated by the legislation.

Magnuson asked the research deans to provide an example of the projects chosen in each of the four categories outlined in the legislation. Discussion noted that there were many worthy projects submitted that were not funded. The Committee identified approximately \$15 million in projects to award.

UNC System Proposals

Representatives from UNC System schools on the call outlined projects that have been identified for funding on their campus.

- Elizabeth City State: Kuldeep Rawat
 - Focusing on setting up testing facility on campus to serve 21 counties
 - Improve regional capacity to respond and make communities more resilient

- Fayetteville State: Afua Arhin
 - Community testing
 - Establish a testing center
 - Social vulnerability work

- NC A&T: Tim Linker
 - Food-animal testing--potential disease harbored in them
 - Affordable fever detection systems to use in schools
 - Predicting and evaluating strategies to limit deaths and spread in elder
 - Anti-viral agents successful against COVID 19
 - Portable sensing platform for rapid detection through a scattering process
 - COVID economic impact on households, government

- NC Central University: Deepak Kumar
 - Facilitate testing in underserved communities
 - Barriers in testing to develop a vaccine and creating one
 - Work with UNC-CH to understand the spread and to immunity that comes with antibodies

- UNC-Asheville: Amy Lanou
 - Back to college challenge including a university health ambassador program
 - Expanding and studying social bridging initiative

- UNC-Pembroke: Todd Telemeco
 - Serology surveillance antibody in collaboration with UNC-CH
 - Partner with public school system

- Winston-Salem State University: Melicia Glover
 - Center of excellence for the elimination of health disparities
 - Strategies for understanding economic impact

Board Discussion

Chris Clemens with the Institute of Convergent Science and Innovate Carolina provided an overview of how they were working to increase collaboration among the projects and possibly create some new research teams.

Various panelists on the call expressed support for the wide range of UNC System projects described during the call.

Segars offered closing remarks, including thanking the UNC Chapel Hill Advisory Committee participants and the UNC System representatives for their expedited work. Segars stated that the process was fast-moving, but that it also required thoroughness and adherence to the highest academic standards. The possibility of another board meeting in coming weeks was also discussed.

Segars adjourned the meeting at 11:40.