

# North Carolina Policy Collaboratory Advisory Board

Meeting Minutes July 2, 2020 Via Zoom

Advisory Board members on the video conference: Al Segars (chair), Anita Brown-Graham, Greg Characklis, Don Hobart, Rick Luettich and Mike Piehler.

Other UNC and Collaboratory staff in attendance were: Nate Knuffman, Jeff Warren, Steve Wall and Julia Maron.

Al Segars began the meeting at 2:00. Segars noted the UNC Conflict of Interest policy reminder. He stated that the Conflict policy does not prohibit members to receive Collaboratory funding and in fact they are encouraged to do so.

Segars asked for and received approval of the June 2020 meeting minutes.

## COVID-19 Research

Segars provided opening remarks to put the meeting discussion in context. He outlined the review process for the COVID-19 funding projects, including the work of the UNC-Chapel Hill Ad Hoc Advisory Committee led by Terry Magnuson. Segars also cited the work of Jeff Warren to reach out to other UNC System campuses to identify projects for funding. Segars noted that those two categories of projects were mostly complete with some minor modifications still pending.

Segars stated that the projects for discussion that still remained were those from UNC-CH across campus and that was the focus of today's meeting. Segars recognized the contributions of Chris Clemens from the College of Arts and Sciences in gathering proposals from several departments. Segars noted that Clemens had recommended projects, but that the projects were reviewed and final recommendations were made by Collaboratory leadership and staff.

Steve Wall reviewed the listed projects that were being recommended for funding. Board members offered comments, suggestions, and questions about specific projects. Rick Luettich, Don Hobart and Anita Brown-Graham had questions about the "Commerce with Confidence Simulator" project. In particular, questions were raised about the budget, who would be the UNC lead, and how would the deliverables be shared.

Warren spoke in more detail about the project and shared language from the Collaboratory funding agreements related to intellectual property. Board members reached consensus that the primary issue was that whatever product and data from the project be made available to UNC and the public. Segars and Warren committed to taking a closer look at this project and addressing the issues raised by Board members.

The Board continued with a discussion of the projects recommended for funding. Greg Characklis gave a brief synopsis of his project focused on the Financial Viability of Critical Health Care Facilities. Brown-Graham provided a summary of her project Testing the Keys to Economic Recovery. Hobart raised an issue about the project Protecting Older Adults and whether the engagement component of the work could be done given the current lockdown restrictions. Warren stated he would follow up with the lead researcher.

Board members engaged in a discussion about the list of projects that were not funded. Brown-Graham asked about the project from the Kenan Institute. Segars responded that there were a number of quality projects, including this one, that would have been funded if more resources were available. Warren stated that given the potential that more funding could become available if project budgets change some of the projects currently not funded could be in the future. Luettich asked if there was a priority list of these projects. Segars stated he would prefer to establish a process if new funding became available and take another look at all of the projects.

#### Collaboratory Budget Discussion

Warren began the discussion of the Collaboratory budget for fiscal year 2020-21 with an overview of projected expenditures. He emphasized that the Collaboratory has close to \$400,000 in funds for research projects. Warren requested that Board members make recommendations about potential research priorities and projects. Hobart suggested the possibility of exploring partnerships with the Creativity Hub proposals in the Office of Vice Chancellor for Research.

Warren discussed recent legislative action that provided extensions for two Collaboratory studies and provided clarifying language related to indirect costs. The Board engaged in a discussion on this topic. Warren noted that there are ongoing discussions with UNC to fund the operations of the Collaboratory to allow all appropriations from the General Assembly to directly to research.

#### Board Discussion

Segars recognized the importance of the Board and stated that the Collaboratory continues to evolve in its scope and mission. He stated that sometimes you find change and sometimes change finds you. He noted the importance of the organization finding some boundaries to its work.

Segars reviewed the action items coming out of this meeting. He stated he was also working on revisions to the Advisory Board Responsibilities document.

He asked the Board to provide any further comments about the COVID-19 projects within the next week so that the funding process could commence.

Segars adjourned the meeting at 3:45.