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RAC Board Meeting July 20, 2001

Library of the Health Sciences
University of Illinois at Chicago
8:00 - 3:00

Members present: Mary Gillaspay, Chair, Consumer Health; Ginger Saha, Chair, Resource Sharing; Bet Ison, Chair, Technology; Mike Simmons, Chair, Communications; Barb Knight, Chair, Education; Susan Jacobson, GMR Director ex-officio; Jean Sayre, GMR Associate Director ex-officio

GMR Staff: Charniel McDaniels, Stephanie Weldon, Tammy Mays

Guest: Catherine Burroughs, NN/LM Outreach Evaluation Resource Center

The first meeting of the RAC Board began with introductions and an overview of the new contract by Susan Jacobson. The 2001-2006 contract involves new programs such as the consumer health program, outreach to special populations, working with HRSA to locate rural health professionals that may need NN/LM services, and working with the CDC to jointly fund public health network models subcontracts. The RAC structure has changed in that the oversight of the working committees has been changed from a large group to a Board made up of the 5 chairs of the committees. After a discussion of the new funding opportunities within the GMR and the proposals that are due July 31, the Board members requested that they get a copy of all of the proposals submitted to the GMR, and not just the ones assigned for each committee for review. Finally, during this contract the RAC will be involved in helping to evaluate the effectiveness of GMR programs, and to design an effective evaluation strategy to perform this evaluation. Evaluation methods will be discussed in the afternoon program by Catherine Burroughs.

Stephanie Weldon then showed the group the resources on the NN/LM website and the NN/LM Intranet that Regional offices will use to track activity.

The Board brainstormed about the activities of each of the 5 committees. The discussion for each committee was lead by the committee chair and the GMR liaison to that committee.

Consumer Health: Ideas for reaching populations-school nurses and health educators should be contacted; communicate to public librarians by packaging health-related questions in a way they can relate; develop programs that target special populations-ask the questions they are interested in; be aware of health literacy issues and the need for low-reading level materials. What is the priority for the entire program? Who should be targeted first? What activities should be emphasized?

Resource Sharing: Electronic delivery of information and electronic resources will be the key issues this committee discusses-for example, restrictive licensing, cost subsidies, desktop delivery in small libraries and developments on the national level with OCLC and NLM.

Technology: This committee will continue the tradition begun in the previous contract with planning and conducting the Technology Awareness discussions at the Midwest Chapter annual meeting. They will monitor the newest technological advances, and communicate via the GMR newsletter to the GMR membership. Topics such as PDAs and wireless communications are examples.

Education: The committee should develop classes that respond to the needs to the GMR membership. A needs assessment could be conducted to determine this. The Board felt there is a need, for example for librarians to learn more about searching other NCBI databases. Also, NLM would like people to know more about clinicaltrials.gov. It would be helpful to develop help sheets that could be placed on the website. Also, there should be more experimentation with interactive distance learning. Also, the committee should try and get CME for NCBI courses.

Communications: Develop ways to communicate effectively to the various groups the GMR should be reaching. Use tools such as E Sources and email to announce important news. Possibly have a weekly or monthly update that goes out to the membership. This committee should work with all the committees to help them with communications.

In the afternoon Cathy Burroughs presented a seminar *Strategies for Evaluating Library Outreach Programs*. It was Cathy's

purpose to give the group ideas on how to pursue evaluation of the GMR programs. During this session, Cathy discussed the phases of evaluation starting with assessment of the community and audience, process and summative evaluation, measurement, data collection and analysis.

In the discussion after Cathy's presentation it became clear that both the GMR and the Committee Chairs needed more definition and direction on what NLM's goals are regarding evaluation of RML programs.

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