State of Connecticut
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE
LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING HARTFORD, CT 06106-1591

NASH Working Group

Meeting Summary

Wednesday, December 18, 2024

12:30 PM on Zoom and YouTube Live

I. Convene Meeting

- The meeting was convened by Wajahat Mehal at 12:37 PM.

- Attendance: Dr. Wajahat Mehal, Dr. Denise Dawson, Dr. Jorge Moreno, Elizabeth Conklin, and Dr. Elizabeth Richardson

II. Agree upon finalized list to be submitted to the Public Health committee.

- Wajahat Mehal announced that this was going to be the final meeting and asked members if they would like another meeting. He stated that they grouped the issues into nine topics and that they were very general. He believes that each topic was addressed by the recommendations of the Working Group. He shared communications he had with the Public Health commissioner and how her comments focus on practicality. He doesn't believe that they are able to write recommendations that would include both broad and narrow steps. He commented that they would be forced to think in a concrete way for how to apply the data.

- Elizabeth Conklin asked Wajahat Mehal if the report will include the topic associated with each recommendation explaining how the recommendation is

addressing that topic.

- Wajahat Mehal believes that is a great point for organization but included that each recommendation deals with multiple topics. He thought about having two separate documents where one document is the recommendations, and the other document would be the topics referencing the recommendations.

- Elizabeth Conklin believes that sounds good.

- Denise Dawson asked about the next steps regarding data and where that data would appear after an individual is screened.

- Wajahat Mehal responded that is an operational question and doesn't know if at this stage they would want to do the operational work associated with the recommendations. He stated that there would be even more operational questions that don't relate to the data, and he doesn't believe that the Working Group has the membership to create a report with that much specificity.

- Denise Dawson states than they should keep it as it is.

- Wajahat Mehal stated that he may be able to flesh it out a little but isn't sure. He commented that they could look at the areas where they weren't able to address the topics. He mentioned insurance coverage as an area where members do not have adequate recommendations. He and Bubu Banini were able to communicate with the leadership of the American Liver Foundation and they are very interested in working with them. He stated that he wants to align with a national organization existing for the purpose of liver health and that the American Liver Foundation already has materials that they can use for educational purposes. He believes that having a "Liver Health Day" and syncing that with the American Liver Foundation is an obvious thing to do. He shared communications that he had with Allison Giguere in which she shared information regarding nutrition. He stated that he can put the communication as an appendix in the report as it lists the top fructose sources, and it highlights fructose as a particularly dangerous sugar. He stated that he and Bubu Banini would write the report and share it with members by Monday or Tuesday. He asked members to come back with revisions by January 1st so that they can submit their report to the Connecticut General Assembly Public Health committee. He asked administrative staff if there is anything else that they need to do because this is their last planned meeting.

- Administrative staff referred that question to Rep. Cristin McCarthy-Vahey as she would know the next steps.

- Elizabeth Conklin asked Wajahat Mehal to share the nutrition information he discussed with Allison Giguere.

- Wajahat Mehal stated that he will. He thanked Working Group members and stated that the one recommendation he would like to see implemented would be the "Liver Health Day".

III. Adjournment

- The meeting adjourned at 12:54 PM.