

**ARTHRITIS AND RELATED DISEASES
MINUTES – October 6, 2010**

MEMBERS PRESENT

Calaneet Balas
Michael Breeden
Allan Gelber
Violeta Rus
Helen Robinson
*Ben Mann
*Cecil Wallace

MEMBERS ABSENT

Linda Brown-Sutphin
Renee Hilliard
Judy Simon
Joan Stine

STAFF

Joyce Dantzer
Jade Leung
Tara Snyder

WELCOME

The meeting convened at 4:30.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM April 28, 2010

The minutes were approved.

ARTHRITIS FOUNDATION UPDATE (Calaneet Balas, Ben Mann, Cecil Wallace)

Calaneet explained her role at the AF as she oversees mission/development work for the Mid-Atlantic region, including marketing, research and development. She mentioned that there will be an open house on October 14 at the Owings Mills branch office, where Katie Spurberg and Allie Belden are the local program liaisons for Tai Chi, Walk With Ease, and other AF programs. Calaneet introduced Mid-Atlantic AF colleagues Ben Mann, Volunteer Manager/State Policy Director, and Cecil Wallace, Vice President of State Policy. The three discussed proposed legislation for Maryland, based on legislation in Georgia entitled the 'Arthritis Prevention and Control Act.' The proposed bill ties into a national bill that just passed the House and is going to the Senate in November. The bill essentially creates a foundation for programs at the state level and gives the Secretary of Health the authority to seek federal funds. The bill provides opportunity for increased funding each year for arthritis programs.

MEMBER UPDATE (Calaneet Balas)

Calaneet gave a brief description of the Walk With Ease program and passed out brochures. It is the newest exercise program from the AF and is being promoted statewide. She also mentioned dates for some upcoming Jingle Bell Run fundraisers for the AF on Nov. 13 and 14. There is a walk in Baltimore. It was mentioned that October 12 is World Arthritis Day. The Mid-Atlantic region of the AF will be hosting the Juvenile Arthritis Conference in 2011 in Virginia. There is also a new advertising campaign put out by the Ad Council, entitled 'Move. Let's Move Together.' Television spots from this campaign are currently airing.

PROGRAM UPDATE (Jade Leung)

Jade mentioned that we are in the third year of our \$50,000 grant, which was cut to \$35,000 for this year. There is potential to receive a fourth year of NACDD funding to maintain program activity until the CDC's five-year competitive funding is available again. Enhance Fitness trainings have been provided in Baltimore City, as well as the Upper Shore area, including Chesapeake College and four YMCA and Senior Center sites. The CDSMP classes are being offered in Cecil County. Jade explained that future funding for arthritis could be combined with other chronic diseases and/or initiatives like physical activity and obesity, cardiovascular health, school health, etc. Currently YMCAs in eight states have received

mini-grants for Enhance Fitness programs from CDC. Jade mentioned that we need to begin working on a new State Plan. Calaneet suggested that we look at other states' plans for guidance in creating our new one, with particular emphasis on success stories. Jade commented that for arthritis programs to really take off, we need to promote them to major employers in the state, such as Verizon.

APPOINTMENTS

We still have several vacant slots in categories of Health Care Industry, Hospital/Health Profession outside Metro area, and patient representative. Members are encouraged to recommend candidates for these slots.

NEXT MEETING

There will be a workgroup meeting on November 3 to begin working on the new state plan.

MEETING ADJOURNED

6:00