Minutes of the GHWA Board Meeting

Bangkok 27-28 October 2006

Board Member Attendance:

*Kathy Cahill
*L. Lincoln Chen (Chair, Oct 28 only) ✓
Tim Evans (Oct 28 only)/*Manuel Dayrit ✓
*Eric Friedman ✓
*Louise Holt
Sigrun Mogedal/*Bjarne Gardner ✓
*Peter Ngattia (for Eric Buch)
*Francis Omaswa ✓
Judith Oulton (Oct 27 only) ✓
*Neil Squires
*Suwit Wibulpolprasert (Acting Chair for Oct 27) ✓

Absent Board Members:
Eric Buch (alternate Peter Ngattia)
Julian Lob-Levt
Antonio Ortiz/Marie-Odile Waty

Secretariat and Invited Guests:
Francisco Campos (Brazil guest)
Mario Dal Poz (WHO guest)
*Ben Fouquet (Secretariat)
Badara Samb (WHO guest)
Jennifer Nyoni (WHO/AFRO guest)

* Designates Board members who attended AAAH meeting in Ayutthaya and thus participated in the 30 October 2006 meeting continuation that reviewed nominations, timeline, and program decisions.

Venue:
Grand Mercure Hotel, Bangkok, Thailand, 27 October 2006
Impact Conference Center, Bangkok, Thailand, 28 October 2006

Agenda:
The meeting opened with an update of HRH activities, in both the GHWA and in related forums. Discussions and decisions followed the approved work plan, as described below. For some matters – like the technical framework, fiscal space and migration task forces – the Board meeting was conducted in other venues. Board committees also met during the AAAH meeting and presented final recommendations to the full Board on 30 October 2006 in Ayutthaya, Thailand.

1. Secretariat Report: Francis, the Executive Director, presented an update of GHWA activities since the last Board meeting in May 2006. The written update
had been circulated earlier to members. Notable achievements were (1) finalization of the MoU with WHO, (2) the granting of the no cost extension of the Norway grant which enables the Secretariat to undertake recruitment and the appointment of the ED, (3) invitations to GHWA founder members, (4) finalization of the work plan and budget by the Program and Policy Committee with its approval by the Board. The GHWA is now fully operational.

2. **Updates from Board Members:**

- **Kathy** reported on the new Director for Global Health at Gates Foundation;
- **Judith** reported on the Wellness Center in Swaziland;
- **Sigrun** reported on the UNGASS meeting in New York and circulated a report of the Working Group on HRH which mentions GHWA. Sigrun also reported on TTR and the possibility of forming a GHWA Working Group on Universal Access for AIDS;
- **Neil** reported that EC has a program on HRH and will make resources available to GHWA in FY 2008;
- **Eric** reported on the activities in the USA – Durbin Bill, PEPFAR and community health workers, and Human rights approaches to HRH work.

Note: the minutes follow the layout of the GHWA work plan and should be read together with the narrative pages of the comprehensive work plan document.

1 **Accelerating Country Actions**

1.1 **Working group on tools and guidelines**

The members of the working group (see meeting Binder item 13 for list) have been officially invited to join it and work has already started during the summer. The HRH Framework and SoftPoDD have undergone a first showing at the African Platform meeting in Arusha, and it was presented at the AAAH conference. Further testing was undertaken during the AAAH conference. Field testing is scheduled to commence in November in selected countries and be carried out through to January 2007.

A presentation of the Framework was carried out by Manuel Dayrit (working group chair) and Mario Dal Poz (WHO/HRH). The Board agreed the tool could be useful and should be field-tested in pathfinder countries.

1.2 **Planning and implementation capacity building**

Initial funding (USD 100 000) has been sent to WHO Country Offices in Phase I African countries identified in the work plan (Angola, Benin, Cameroon, Ethiopia, Zambia) for the formation of the Country Action Teams (CAT). The Secretariat is working on refining the operational model for this area following the Executive Director's face-to-face meetings with representatives from the above countries. Detailed plans for the country work are also needed to successfully complete the Gates Foundation grant application.

The Board approved additional technical support for all Phase I countries to carry out CAT plans. Phase II countries will also receive funding in accordance with the work plan’s time frame.
1.3 FTTI
A report on the ongoing work with Lord Nigel Crisp was presented. A Task Force co-chaired with the MOH Uganda and involving France, Canada, Cameroon, Malawi met in Addis Ababa during the WHO AFRO Regional Committee. Studies on twinning and ICT are ongoing and will be reported at a meeting scheduled for 20 November 2006. Lusophone countries are also invited.

Decisions will be made on whether pilots on partnerships, twinning and ICT can be used to scale-up HRH development and revitalization of education.

Decision: Lord Crisp is to lead work on high-level political sponsorship and Peter Walker, along with WHO/HRH Dept. would lead technical work on revitalization of education and the FTTI. It was noted that Lord Crisp’s political advocacy would be enhanced if symbolic funding were secured from the UK government, and it was reported that he is visiting Gates Foundation that may provide some salary coverage for Lord Crisp’s time on a short-term basis.

1.4 Mobilize/Catalyze political will & leadership
The Board appreciated the progress made by both the African Platform and AAAAH in this matter. It seemed essential for GHWA to work closer with them in this field, particularly in view of the upcoming G8 and AU Health Ministers meeting.

1.5 Resource mobilization for implementation
The Secretariat summarized its funding situation. Funds from Norway have been secured. Upcoming funding sources include Canada, Ireland, France and the Gates Foundation. Other donors were approached: the EU, Sweden, UK and the Netherlands. The Secretariat was requested to provide full and transparent fiscal information on all incomes and expenditures undertaken under the name of the Alliance starting on 1 June 2006.

It was emphasized by the Board that as GHWA was not a funding agency but a catalytic/technical/advocacy alliance, GHWA should continue to advocate for funds to countries for implementation of country HRH programs.

2. Promoting Synergy between Partners

2.1 Adoption of the GHWA framework
The Secretariat has been building bridges with other entities such as GAVI, GFATM, PNMC and other GHP/Is (Alliance for Health Policy and Systems Research, TTR). Further efforts in this field were encouraged by the Board. A meeting has been convened on 19 November 2006 by GAVI of the various partnerships in Geneva to discuss hosting arrangements. The Board chair has been approached by the Global Fund to contribute to the Fund’s strategy development on how it should finance health systems including HRH investments in countries.

Decision: the language included in the work plan regarding area 2 was modified. It was also proposed that a working group linking HIV/AIDS + other priority diseases and HRH / health systems was needed to go beyond TTR.
2.2 GHWA Framework implementation at country level

**Decision:** deletion of operational model 2.2.i - the updated work plan will follow these minutes as soon as possible.

3. Knowledge Generation, Management & Sharing

3.1 Adequate evidence on HRH issues

A board paper on collaborative work between GHWA and the Partnership for Health Policy and Systems Research was presented and approved.

As indicated above and in the spirit of cooperation and avoidance of duplication, the secretariat has approached the Alliance for Health Policy and Systems Research to form a joint working group on knowledge management and sharing.

**Decision:** Draft an MoU with this Alliance. Given that the Alliance for Health Policy represents a minuscule portion of the knowledge generation and dissemination community, the Alliance should continue to work on greatly expanding dialogue, interaction and partnerships with universities and research bodies.

3.2 Dissemination of knowledge

Proposals for the date and place of the GHWA Forum are for two days in Ethiopia in the third week of September 2007. The Secretariat should immediately constitute a Forum planning group and contract out logistics and management to an appropriate firm. The theme for the Forum should be selected very early so that participants are able to prepare and participate effectively.

4. Advocating for HRH

A board paper on communication & advocacy strategy presented by Eric Friedman was endorsed by the Board, although some of its finer points were not fully discussed. The Board wanted further clarification of points 10-15 in the paper and urged caution with some of these (such as the HRH Scorecard).

**Decision:** to finalize the strategy paper and circulate it to the Board, including the advocacy working group’s ToR and proposed membership list. Furthermore, the Board emphasized that advocacy should be a shared responsibility for all Board members, not just the working group’s. The goal set by the Board was to have GHWA in the news at least twice a year.

5. Addressing Global HRH Problems

**Task force on HRH migration**

A board paper was presented. It was agreed that two streams of work will move forward: Task force be headed by Mary Robinson, on political/advocacy to negotiate a global code of practice. A second stream of work at technical level with a secretariat at WHO and involving ILO, IOM and other stakeholders headed by Dr Jean Yan of the HRH Dept.). It was noted that the Alliance ED and WHO Department head should ensure their positions are compatible in preparation for Mary Robinson and Peggy Clark’s Geneva visit in early November.
Mary Robinson has invited the Executive Director of GHWA to co-chair the Task force with her. The Board welcomed this invitation and agreed that the arrangement should proceed.

**Fiscal space**
The post HLF is looking to GHWA for expertise and guidance in scale-up financing. The Health Financing task force (headed by David de Ferranti and including Mary Robinson, Tim Evans, Julio Frenk, etc.) is looking for policy options.

**Decision:** engage this task force regarding fiscal space issues.
The Board also emphasized the need to involve civil society – through GHWA – in the discussion.

**Additional Matters**

**Secretariat staffing issues**
The Secretariat requested the active cooperation of the Board to secure a fast-track hiring process for its staff.

**Decision:** in agreement of the above, the Board suggested that secondments from within and without the Board membership should be called for and/or funded as a temporary stop-gap measure. The French Government has already committed to this and other entities (such as GTZ) have also expressed this intention. The Alliance should dispatch a letter to the new WHO DG expressing positive views on the MoU as well as on the prospect of fast-tracking GHWA Secretariat staff recruitment.

**Nominations for Board Membership**
The Nomination Committee presented its research on practices of other global partnerships, desirable attributes for GHWA, and recommendations of potential Board candidates. During the AAAH meeting in Ayutthaya, the Committee continued its deliberations, working through policy ground rules and Board candidates that were vetted by the Board on 30 October 2006.

**Nominations decided by the Board:**
- Miriam Were (AMREF)
- Han Qi-de (Pekin University), pending the WHO D-G election
- Perhaps J. Sopoleda (Mexico), but this requires further consultation with PAHO.

A more detailed account of the work and decisions of the 30 October Board meeting will be circulated shortly by the Nominations Committee.