

Wednesday, May 16, 2018: 9:00 AM –10:00 AM PDT

Governance Committee Meeting: Health Equity Network in the Americas

Facilitators: Michael A. Rodriguez, UCLA Blum Center on Poverty and Health in Latin America
Rocio Saenz, National University, Costa Rica (unable to attend)

Committee Members Attending:

Anne Dubois, Dubois Betourne & Associates / UCLA Blum Center on Poverty and Health in Latin America
Luiz Galvao, FIOCRUZ
Juan Pablo Gutierrez, INSP (National Institute of Public Health, Mexico)
Anna Coates, Pan American Health Organization
Bri-Ann Hernandez, UCLA Blum Center on Poverty and Health in Latin America

Committee Members Unable to Attend:

Andrea Leiva, UCLA Blum Center on Poverty and Health in Latin America
Manuel Urbina, Investigación en Salud y Demografía -INSAD
Elyse Bautista, FUNSALUD
Mabel Bianco, FEIM
Donald Simeon, University of the West Indies St. Augustine
Pedro Mas, Instituto de Medicina Tropical Pedro Kouri

1. Welcome – Michael Rodriguez, UCLA Blum Center

- Michael welcomed representatives from the Caribbean region: Donald Simeon, St. Augustine University and Pedro Mas, Tropical Research Institute.

2. Reports –

The Governance Committee Charter

- Juan Pablo suggested rephrasing the Spanish name of the Network to change the acronym from RESA, which has a religious connotation, to RAES- Red de las Americas en Equidad de Salud.
- Juan Pablo noted that “technical secretary” is the term in Spanish for director. All committees should have co-chairs and co-coordinators working together and we need to determine the difference between the titles, “coordinator” and “co-chair.”
 - Suggestions are welcomed about the word “co-chair” since it’s not consistent with the words in Spanish. Need to standardize this term for all the committees.

The Membership Guidelines

- **Engagement** - There is a need to develop different ways in which members can participate in the Network through committee work and/or through discussion resources. The door needs to be left open for those interested and also by identifying distinct manners those already involved can participate.
- **Collaboration** - Juan Pablo noted the importance of how to collaborate with members. Different types of collaboration should be identified, with criteria for collaboration established. In the future, members should be

able to show they are interested in collaborating. It should also be ensured that this does not in any way form a barrier for those that want to join, since it can be difficult to report details of any possible collaboration.

- **Membership Fees** – The fee issue was addressed, and it was determined that no members should pay fees.
- **Membership Criteria** - Michael addressed what does being a member mean and who can qualify. Several types of membership categories are needed. The designation of “prospective” should be removed. Members should share the same vision, in order to collaborate in a way that’s inclusive and promotes cohesion. To be a member, it should be expected that activities will be shared with the network. It is also important to not leave behind people who cannot be that active, to help them become included and feel part of the network.
- **Geographic Coverage** – The Network wants representatives from several geographic areas in order to be more diverse and inclusive.

3. Advocacy and Communications Committee Update

- In development stage – working to develop goals, organize and structure the committee, assign leadership and develop a strategic plan. The organization is expanding, adding levels of management and appointing additional co-chairs
- **Naming:** Spanish name of committee has been changed from “Abogacia” to “Incidencia” because “abogacia” has a legal connotation while “incidencia” seemed more appropriate.
- **New Leaders:** Joining Eugenia Tarzibachi, PhD as co-chair will be: Ximena Avellaneda, Mexico, GES Mujer & Amy Ritterbucsh, Colombia, PARCES

4. Governance Committee – Priority Area: Organizational Structure, Leadership Patterns, and Systems Design

- **Building Processes** – Processes must be established through which the committee can identify its goals and supporters, priority areas, and different roles of committee members.
- **System design** – A system design will help to identify issues, problems and needs of the organization, as well as to improve efficiency and ultimately outcomes. A model framework was presented as published in Pugh K, Prusak L: *Designing Effective Knowledge Networks*.
- **New Committees:**
 - **Investigate and pursue Research & Policy Committee** opportunities. The Network would like to publish in an academic journal and work will be done to work toward this goal.
 - General focus areas have been identified but now need to determine how to carry out research, policy, equity, planning and implementation and evaluation.
 - Need Network members to join the committees and prioritize areas of support.

5. Notes from Rocío (sent post-meeting)

- **Clarifying Language** – Feedback from members regarding Network documents was that language (vocabulary) needs to be clarified and consistent → position of committee, responsibilities, clear between co-chair vs. Co-coordinadora and stay consistent internally
- **Network Name** - RESA → RAES
- **Committee on Research and Policies** – We have some money to support the development of publication of articles for poverty and health. This will be ongoing project for the committee.
 - We need to identify an article to conform group on poverty and health or a group to analyze information. Would this be more internal communications? Having an academic perspective is important, but also including perspective from distinct sectors.
 - We must identify people who express a clear interest in wanting to participate and who will help lead this project and move it forward. People involved should already have information on this and do research in the field.
 - **Agenda Setting:** Develop steps for writing out the plan, what do we want to talk about, which sector, etc.
 - We have to find resources on gender equality and race/ethnicity/indigenous populations and have a proposal or idea to discuss very soon since 10 months to write an article is not a lot of time.

6. Next meeting: Tuesday, June 19 at 9am PT.

7. Action Items:

- Review Governance Committee Material and send comments & feedback by Wednesday, May 30.
- Review Advocacy and Communications Charter and send comments and feedback before May 30.