**ARTHRITIS COMMITTEE**

**January 15, 2020**

**5:00–6:00 P.M.**

**MINUTES**

The Arthritis Committee held a public meeting on January 15, 2020, beginning at 5:12 p.m. at the following location:

Maryland Department of Health

201 West Preston St, Room Rm 100

Baltimore, MD 21201

**Committee Members Present**

Rachel Pigott (co-chair)

Meg Gwaltney

Dr. Sumit Bassi

**Committee Members Absent**

Linda Kline

**Maryland Department of Health Staff Present**

Erin Ashinghurst

The meeting was called to order at 5:12 p.m.

1. **Approval of Minutes**

The committee agreed to approve minutes from the October 16, 2019 meeting. Erin Ashinghurst requested approval of the October 16, 2019. Rachel Piggott made a motion to approve the minutes and Meg Gwaltney seconded.

1. **Committee Goal Statements**

*Goal Objective:* By 2020, develop a 5-year action plan to initiate, sustain, and expand dissemination strategies related to Arthritis-Appropriate Evidence-Based Interventions (AAEBI) available in the state of Maryland. Strategies include:

* Increase general awareness by producing and distributing a newsletter and conducting a social media campaign. To start by the end of 2020.
* Increase physician and other health practitioner’s awareness about evidence-based programs and encourage referrals by identifying Maryland-based resources and developing an infographic on what qualifies something as an AAEBI.

1. **Discussion**

The group reviewed the Arthritis Committee Action Plan and discussed how to gather information resources to develop one or more tools to promote awareness about evidence-based programs and encourage referrals.

To guide the development of Arthritis awareness materials a Creative Considerations will be developed by the committee. The group will use Google Docs to outline the intended audience, objectives, potential obstacles, key promises and support statements, tone, communication channels, and open opportunities to share the resource. A Creative Considerations will identify people with arthritis as part of a demographic that shares the burden of other chronic diseases and highlight methods to enhance access to health services that will promote equity for this population.

The committee will start a google document to list potential topics for any materials to be created. Potential topics may include; ways to address joint pain, patient self-advocacy, medication information, and joint protection methods.

The group would like to collaborate with other subcommittees to launch social media messages promoting arthritis awareness materials. In order to take steps towards developing a social media campaign, the group would like to know if the Maryland Department of Health Communications department has set forth guidance on how to develop social media content that meets department guidelines for tone, content, and styling.

The committee discussed available resources to accomplish this work, and Ms. Piggot noted her relation to someone who is a graphic arts student, and may be willing to create art for an infographic. Additionally, new member, Dr. Sumit Bassi noted that Synvisc and Durolane may be interested partners to fund educational materials. If directed by the Department of Health, Dr. Bassi is willing to reach out to these companies to determine potential partnership interest.

Members of this committee would like to receive the monthly Center Newsletter.

1. **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:58 p.m.

**Next Steps**

* Rachel Pigott will share a copy of the Creative Considerations template with the group via Google Docs.
* The group will start a google document to list potential topics for any materials to be created by the committee chair.
* Erin Ashinghurst will ensure that members of the Arthritis Committee are added to the Center Newsletter contact list so that they can receive monthly updates from the Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Control.
* The committee chair and staff lead will hold an interim meeting on January 30, 2020.

**Next Meeting: April 15, 2020**