

Working Group 1 – Conference Call #1
September 15th, 1:00 PM EST

Welcome and Introductions

Working Group Members in Attendance:

Dr. Alice Kau – Co-chair
Dr. Ann Wagner – Co-chair
Shannon Haworth
Jennifer Johnson
Nicole Williams
Karen Pierce
Diana Robins
Angela Scarpa
Audrey Thurm
Debra Wagler
Lisa Wiggins

Working Group Members Absent:

Daniel Coury
Ami Klin
Catherine Lord
Sandy Magana
Amy Wetherby

Summary of 2013 Portfolio Analysis – Group Discussion (Pages 1-4, Data Analysis Slides)

1. Comments/observations on the overall portfolio?

- A portion of the projects listed in Core/Other are projects that align with emerging areas of research that can be addressed in the revision of the Strategic Plan.
- With the release of the United States Preventative Services Task Force report on early screening, it is important to address in the next Strategic Plan the current understanding on if early diagnosis leads to early interventions which improves access to services and outcomes.
- While there will be broader objectives in this next version of the Strategic Plan, studies related to the ethical, legal, and social implications of ASD research should be kept in mind throughout the text.

Analysis of Question 1 Objectives (Multiyear Funding Table and 2013 Project List)

1. Has there been an adequate number of projects for each objective?

- While objective 1.S.C was partially completed, members of the working group agreed not enough progress has been made on health disparities and early diagnosis. Research questions aimed at quality measurements and tools as well as services and access are needed to address the research gaps.
 - It would be beneficial to the working group to consult or add someone who has expertise in objective 1.S.E (genetic testing) to better understand the progress in this objective.
 - Several objectives contain both biological and behavioral diagnostic/screening tools under the same objective, the working group members should discuss if it would be better to separate them into their own objectives or if there is a benefit to keeping them together if the objectives will be broader.
2. For each objective, do the funded projects cover the scope of the objective? Any noted areas of progress or gaps?
- The working group members decided to discuss on the next phone call for Question 1 the specific projects and identify areas in objectives where more advances have been made since 2013.
3. Was the recommended budget for each objective reached? If less was spent, but the number/scope of projects was appropriate, should the objective be considered completed but accomplished with less than the expected budget? In cases where more was spent than the recommended budget, was it because many more projects were funded in that area or because projects were more costly than originally projected? Are there any concerns with regard to funding associated with objectives?
- Some working group members highlighted the historical lack of funding for objective 1.S.D.
4. Does the working group observe any areas of this question or specific projects that appear to be duplicative? Does the working group have suggestions about how duplication of effort can be avoided in this area?
- The working group members noted that avoiding duplication is an important goal, but were not sure if there was true duplication of effort based on preparation for the first phone call. Working group members indicated they would need more time to review the project listings and descriptions thoroughly before deciding if any projects appeared to be duplicative.
5. Are there any areas of emerging research that do not appear to be represented strongly in the portfolio that should be considered for mention in the new Strategic Plan?
- Translational research should be an area of focus, bridging the gap between research findings and services in the community.
 - Examining the sustainability of the implementation and dissemination of tools in the community without the need for researchers disseminating the resources.

Wrap up and preview of next call

- Efforts should be made to try and have as many members of the working group on the call as possible.
- The next call will include a discussion of input received through the Request for Public Comment.
- The next call will also include a discussion of research updates since the development of the last Strategic Plan. Working group members are encouraged to send examples of any scientific breakthroughs for discussion on the next Working Group 1 conference call.