Phase II: Streamlining the CCSG Application and Evaluation Process

Joint NCAB/BSA
June 24, 2015
Membership

- Mary Beckerle, PhD (Huntsman/Utah), Co-Chair
- Brian Springer, MHA (Moffitt), Co-Chair
- Frederick Appelbaum, MD (Fred Hutchinson)
- Kevin Cullen, MD (Greenebaum/Maryland)
- Chi Dang, MD, PhD (Abramson/Pennsylvania)
- Robert Gerlach, MPA (Norris Cotton/Dartmouth)
- Stanton Gerson, MD (Case Western)
- Lauren Hackett, MPA (Vanderbilt-Ingram)
- Anita Harrison, MPA (Hollings/Med Univ of South Carolina)
- Michelle LeBeau, PhD (Univ of Chicago)
- Craig Thompson, MD (Memorial Sloan-Kettering)
- Kristiina Vuori, MD, PhD (Sanford-Burnham)
- George Weiner, MD (Holden/Iowa)
- Sonya Roberson, PhD (NCI) - Liaison
- Shamala Srinivas, PhD (NCI) - Liaison
- Linda Weiss, PhD (NCI) – Executive Secretary

9 Center Dir.
4 Assoc. Dir. Admin.
3 NCI Staff
Goals

• Enhance CCSG application and review process

• Amplify referee ability to assess impact and innovation

• Reduce administrative burden and streamline the process
Timeline

- **April-May 2014**
  - Preparation/planning and committee recruitment
- **June-August 2014**
  - 4 working subgroups
  - 8 team calls
  - E-mail dialogue
- **September-October 2014**
  - Final report/recommendations assembled
- **December 11, 2014**
  - Discussion at Subcommittee A “Parent Committee”
- **February 9, 2015**
  - Review at Center Director’s meeting
Recommendations in 4 Major Areas:

1. Explore value and enhance efficiency of the site visit

2. Increase clarity of requirements and review criteria

3. Streamline data collection

4. Streamline annual CCSG progress report

The Working Group also assembled a collection of specific suggestions for improvement of CCSG application and review guidelines. (Appendix document)
All final recommendations were discussed & endorsed by participants of:

- Working Group (unanimously)
- Subcommittee A
- Center Directors
Summary of WG Recommendations
1. Explore Value & Efficiency of the Site Visit

---Evaluate impact and merit of site visit

- Document and collect metrics on the value of site visit
  - Other mechanisms (U, P, etc) have eliminated site visits
  - Significant time and cost savings for Centers and NCI
  - Scoring impact may balance out

- Eliminate site visit tours and poster presentations for Shared Resources
- Replace with Q&A session for Shared Resources

- Parent committee comments:
  - Teambuilding value of site visit for Centers
  - Site visit provides opportunity to answer questions

**Recommendations**
2. Increase Clarity of Requirement/Review Criteria

- Modify instructions and review criteria to eliminate redundancy

- Restore individual review of Shared Resources
  - eliminate current “grouping” approach

- Better define eligibility requirements for “comprehensive” designation while avoiding “one size fits all” approach

- Parent Committee comments:
  - Redundancy has some value for reviewers
  - Individual review of Shared Resources is preferred
  - Added specificity may constrain Centers and reviewers

Recommendations
3. Streamline Data Collection

- Make greater user of direct data acquisition methods for Data Tables to reduce administrative burden
  - Tap existing systems (e.g., CTRP, RePORTER)

- Use electronically available resources for Biosketches
  - Consider My NIH Biosketch for non-key personnel
  - Enhance utilization of existing central NIH resources

- Parent Committee comments
  - No concerns raised
  - Several of these actions already underway

Recommendations
4. Streamline Annual CCSG Progress Reports

- Simplify process for annual Progress Report
  - Reduce narrative length to emphasize key accomplishments & major changes
  - Provide annually updated Data Tables to enable Program staff to track progress
    - Annual Progress Reports are time-consuming to produce and don’t have actionable consequences
    - NCI Office of Cancer Centers utilizes progress reports in many ways

- Not discussed by the Parent Committee.
Next Steps

• National Cancer Advisory Board review
  – today

• Final report to Dr. Paulette Gray, Division of Extramural Activities

• Office of Cancer Centers implementation
Implementation timeline

“When issued” update by OCC for elements not defined in the CCSG FOA

  Progress report & site visit structure

CCSG FOA “Guidelines” reissue

  September 2016

First new format CCSG submission

  January 25, 2017
Discussion and vote