

**Minority Health Advisory Committee Meeting**  
**October 14, 2008 - 11:00am - 2:00pm**  
**Location - VDH - Richmond, VA - Mezzanine Conference Room**

**Member Attendees:** Gloria Addo-Ayensu, MD, MPH; Judy Anderson; Jane G. Cabarrus; Melissa Canaday; Lucie Ferguson, PhD, MPH, RN; Milagritos L. Flinn, BA; Gail Jennings, PhD; Michael A. Pyles, PhD; David Simmons, MSN, RN, CNN; Claudia M. Tellez; and Rudolph Wilson, PhD

**State Health Commissioner:** Dr. Karen Remley

**Members Absent:** Baxter Harrington, MS, Tram Nguyen, Juan Villalona, MD; and Hasan Yousuf, MD.

**Staff Attendance:** Dr. Michael Royster, MD, MPH, Karen Reed, MA, Susan L. Triggs, MPH, RN, Thursa Crittenden, Golam Rabbani, and Ellen McCutcheon, **OMHPHP Student Interns:** Adia Coleman and Conschetta Wright

### **Welcome and Introductions**

David Simmons commenced the meeting by welcoming everyone.

### **Adoption of Agenda - MHAC Members**

The agenda was adopted as presented.

### **Adoption of Minutes from April 8, 2008 meeting - MHAC Members**

The minutes were approved as submitted.

### **Report on MHAC Election Results New Officers**

Karen Reed shared the results of the election of the new officers.

- David Simmons elected as the Chair Member
- Rudolph Wilson elected as the Vice-Chair
- Gail Jennings elected as the Secretary

### **Sub-Committee Reports Update: (items from last Meeting)**

#### **MHAC Fact Sheet/Letterhead**

- Thursa Crittenden discussed the MHAC trifold brochure. Members received hard copies of the final version of the brochure as agreed upon at the July meeting. Plans are underway to have the brochure translated into Spanish and Vietnamese. Milagritos Flinn translated the Spanish version. To ensure correctness and cultural appropriateness, Milagritos Flinn and Melissa Canaday will present her translated version to other Spanish-speaking individuals. Tram Nguyen is working on the Vietnamese version. After a short discussion, committee members made corrections and new recommendations for the brochure. The corrections and recommendations were noted. The full MHAC committee will consider all changes for the revised brochure. Upon approval, all versions of the brochure will be available on-line.

- Jane Cabarrus discussed having the NAACP appear after her name on MHAC fact sheet materials and on the website. Ms. Cabarrus stated that she represents the local chapter of the NAACP in her community. There was discussion as to whether the local branch should be listed on future material.
- Lucie Ferguson suggested stronger language to identify MHAC's "Our Role" on the trifold. She suggested the MHAC's role statement include: "To ensure public health programs focus on health equity. " Dr. Remley indicated that the suggested language seemed appropriate. Dr. Remley requested that Thursa Crittenden draft and forward the revised language for approval. .

### **Ongoing Update on MHAC Health Equity Activities - "Unnatural Causes" Series Partnerships/Initiatives**

All members were asked to give an update on their health equity activities.

- Lucie Ferguson shared information with Cancer Plan Action Coalition
- David Simmons indicated that the series will be shown at his church followed by discussion throughout the year.
- Gail Jennings
  - "Unnatural Causes" is being reviewed by the National Association of Chronic Disease Directors, Health Equity Committee
  - Dr. Royster will speak on Health Equity at a November conference in Charlottesville
    - Dr. Brian Smedley will also speak on "Equal Opportunity"
    - Twenty scholarships are available for needy attendees
- Judy Anderson indicated that the Sickle Cell Association is hosting a Family Forum - "Strengthening the Family: Moving beyond tomorrow" on Saturday, October 18, 2008 at ODU Web Center. The "Unnatural Causes" series will be running throughout the forum in a separate room. Attendees will be able to view the series at will as they move about.
- Melissa Canaday and Susan Triggs are planning a Town Hall Meeting at the Chickahominy Tribe Center in November. Date to be announced.
- Gloria Addo-Ayensu
  - Meeting with Fairfax County Health Department Management to begin process of developing a strategic approach for integrating a health equity focus into agency programs/activities.
  - Showing a segment of the series to the Multi-Cultural Advisory Council on November 4, 2008

- The Metropolitan Washington Council of Government's Health Officials Committee bi-monthly agenda now routinely includes a discussion of policy matters regarding social determinants of health in an effort to move the "Unnatural Causes" agenda forward.

## **OMHPPH Updates**

### Dr. Royster

- Dr. Royster spoke to the assembly at the Governor's Latino Summit about health equity and the various health issues facing their community
- On October 3, 2008 Dr. Royster spoke to the Virginia Perinatal Council
  - Unnatural Causes Series was shown
  - Discussed the distribution of poverty in their area
    - This was a follow-up to healthcare access talk given to this group at an earlier date
    - Showed the "Unnatural Causes" segment 'When the Bough Breaks'
  - Dr. Royster is the keynote speaker for CINCH's 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Membership Conference on October 24<sup>th</sup>.
    - Event focus is on engaging the community in root cause analysis and health equity
  - Dr. Royster will also speak in Charlottesville at the "Joining the Race to Conquer Cancer" conference
- Susan Triggs and Karen Reed plan to visit the American Heart Association to discuss health equity with Task Force Members from around the Commonwealth a segment of "Unnatural Causes" will be shown.
- The OMHPPH will identify two legislative bills in the upcoming General Assembly session to assess their impact on health (Health Impact Assessments)
  - This is a process of helping legislators understand the bill's impact on health equity in communities throughout the Commonwealth.
- Interagency Work Group on Health Equity
  - Developing a work plan to look at health equity at the agency policy level across agencies.
  - OMHPPH is waiting for approval from the Secretary and Commissioner's Office to move forward.
  - Dr. Addo-Ayensu stated that Fairfax is thinking about how to do a work group framework
    - Dr. Royster mentioned a Washington, DC group she may be interested in partnering with
- State Rural Health Plan (SRHP)
  - Virginia's SRHP Will be discussed at the VA Rural Health Association Conference, Staunton, Virginia November 5-7, 2008

- MHAC members were encouraged to attend
- Health Equity Report
  - Putting final format together – report will be issued in Oct/Nov 2008.
  - MHAC members are encouraged to use it and share it with others
  - This document helps define where we are and is used to keep the community informed about what we are doing
  - Health Equity Report will be available on the OMHPHP website.

Karen Reed

- Karen Reed shared that the office had conducted a health equity presentation for Three Rivers Health District Management Team to help incorporate a focus on the social determinants of health into their strategic planning. The session led to the creation of a logic model to guide the health district program planning.
- Members were reminded that OMHPHP is available to assist organizations with implementing programs that advance health equity
- OMHPHP has identified target areas for conducting Town Hall meetings in collaboration with partners such as, UVA, VCU, in all In all regions of the state.
- Karen Reed introduced Susan Triggs as the Heath Equity Specialist in the OMHPHP. Susan provided an overview of her background and indicated she is looking forward to working with MHAC in the future.
- Karen Reed introduced interns that are working in the OMHPHP for this semester, Adia Coleman and Conschetta Wright, elaborated on their respective projects. She further mentioned that a third intern, Amy Ernest, is working with the OMHPHP until May 2009.

**Jane Cabarrus** discussed some of the projects she has initiated in the Eastern Shore area of Virginia. They include infant mortality, prostate cancer, and others. She received feedback from members regarding her efforts in her community.

- Karen Reed and Dr. Royster met with Cecilia Barbosa, Executive Director of the Virginia Public Health Association and discussed collaborating on a Health Equity Conference in May of 2009. There was a CDC conference planning grant identified as a possible means to support the conference. MHAC members were asked if they were interested in partnering on this initiative. The following members volunteered to support Conference planning/grant initiatives: David Simmons, Gloria Addo-Ayensu, Claudia Tellez, and Milagritos Flinn Any others interested should contact OMHPHP.
- Karen Reed reminded the committee of the annual Native American Heritage Month Program at VDH is planned for November 19, 2008 from 2 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. and MHAC is invited to attend.

## Discussion - MHAC Sub-committees- membership - leadership

- Members' signed up to participate on MHAC sub-committees. The two sub-committees are Community Engagement and Policy/Legislation. Members identified a need for a Chair for both ongoing sub-committees. Sub-Committee membership is as follows:
  - **Community Engagement** (includes Town Hall meetings)
    - Gloria Addo-Ayensu
    - Judy Anderson
    - Jane Cabarrus
    - Melissa Canaday
    - Milagritos Flinn
    - Gail Jennings
    - David Simmons
  - **Legislative/Policy** (Identify legislative bills for review and recommend to larger body, and ultimately to Health Commissioner, Dr. Karen Remley)
    - Members
      - Michael Pyles
      - Lucie Ferguson
      - Claudia Tellez
      - Rudy Wilson
    - Michael Pyles encouraged non-state employee MHAC members to participate on this sub-committee because they can more easily address the issues as they can interface with various caucuses within the General Assembly to understand their thinking and, generally, gather information without promoting any legislative priorities.
    - Dr. Addo-Ayensu reminded the committee that Health Directors can be a good resource.
    - There was discussion that sub-committee meetings would also need to follow the public meeting protocol and OMHPHP would continue to set up meetings.
    - David Simmons asked sub-committee members will let Karen Reed know who will act as chair for each committee.
  - **Funding Subcommittee** is a standing committee that meets as needed. The Vice Chair of MHAC will chair Funding Sub-Committee

### Other Topics:

- Jane Cabarrus asked the committee members if MHAC would be supportive of her seeking outside funding to support several health fair events/forums on the Eastern Shore and handle the funds. Jane Cabarrus also indicated that she will check to see if an organization on the Eastern Shore will handle any funds.

- Dr. Remley directed Dr. Royster to talk with the State Attorney General's Office to see what level of support MHAC can provide.
- Jane Cabarrus requested that MHAC reps attend any events/forums scheduled on the Eastern Shore.
- Michael Pyles noted that Town Hall meetings have been held on Eastern Shore twice with no follow up and this does not need to be repeated.
- Rudy Wilson suggested that MHAC needs a proactive agenda for the Eastern Shore and this would make Jane's proposal more concrete.
- Michael Pyles suggested that working with a project on the Eastern Shore would be a great effort for the Community Engagement Sub-Committee.
- Jane Cabarrus reported that Shore Memorial Hospital is up for sale. Dr. Remley suggested that the OMHPHP should reach out to Shore Memorial to help capture the community's true picture of need.

**Health Commissioners Remarks:**

- Dr. Remley informed the members that she and Dr. Royster were both speakers at the Governor's Latino Summit. Her presentation was on Infant Mortality.
- Dr. Remley reported that MHAC's recommended legislative priorities were sent forward to the Secretary of Health and Human Resources.
- Dr. Remley also reported that there have been significant changes to the Women Infant and Children's program package in 2009, including:
  - Brown rice, tortillas will be added
  - All juice will be eliminated
  - Childhood obesity prevention should target 2 month old children instead of school-age children
  - Pediatricians and OB/GYNs need to play a bigger role in childhood obesity prevention
  - The program now endorses healthy foods and focuses on the early childhood years.
- Dr. Remley reported that the first Infant Mortality Work Group meeting will be held on October 22<sup>nd</sup>.
  - Attendees will include physicians and other stakeholders that include the social network of women of childbearing age and the faith-based community.
  - This is a significant issue of health inequities
  - There is a need to re-educate doctors

- Dr. Remley discussed VDH's Budget cuts and how difficult it was and will be to select which positions to cut.
  - Seventeen positions were eliminated
  - One Hundred and Ten positions are not going to be filled.
  - Some incentive/scholarship programs may be cut for 2009 and 2010

**MHAC Members Comments**

- Gail Jennings asked if OMHPHP would like questions added to the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) for 2009
  - Two modules were added previously
    - Reactions to race
    - Social context: social environment in which people live and civic engagement
  - Dr. Royster advised that there are no funds for 2009 survey questions and he indicated that we will try to identify funds for adding questions to future BRFSS surveys

**Public Comment:**

- There was no public comment.

**Next MHAC Meeting Location change:**

**Annual State of Health Equity in Virginia/ Health Equity Training of the Trainer Program**

**Date:** December 4, 2008

**Time:** 11:00 am-2:00 pm

**Location** State Corporation Commission Building, 11th Floor Conference Room, Corner Bank & Governor Street, Richmond, (Gray building across from VDH - Bank & Franklin Street)

<p><b>2009 MHAC Meeting Dates -</b></p> <p><b>Location:</b> Virginia Department of Health - Main Floor Conference Room - 109 Governor Street, Richmond, VA 23219</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• January 13, 2009</li> <li>• April 14, 2009</li> <li>• July 14, 2009</li> <li>• October 13, 2009</li> <li>• December 8, 2009 - Annual State of Health Equity in Virginia Report</li> </ul>	<p><b>Meeting Time:</b> 11:00 am-2:00 pm</p>
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**Questions or special needs - please contact:** Karen Reed, Director, Division of Health Equity - 804-864-7435 - [Karen.Reed@vdh.virginia.gov](mailto:Karen.Reed@vdh.virginia.gov)

**Minutes prepared by:** Ellen McCutcheon/ Susan L. Triggs, MPH, RN  
**Minutes reviewed by:** Gail Jennings, MHAC Secretary