

**Minority Health Advisory Committee Meeting**  
Virginia Department of Health  
1<sup>st</sup> floor Conference Room - 109 Governor Street - Richmond, Virginia 23219  
July 10, 2007

**Attendees:** Dr. Michael Royster, Karen E. Reed, Cynthia Beadle, Ellen McCutcheon, Baxter Harrington, MS, David Simmons, MSN, RN, CNN, Lucie Ferguson, PhD, MPD, RN, Thu Nguyen, Hien Dang, Gloria Addo-Ayensu M.D., M.P.H., Judy Anderson and Rudolph Wilson, PhD.

**Absentees:** Paul Puryear, PhD Michael Pyles, PhD, Jane Cabarrus, Annette Holmes and Gail Jennings

**Welcome: Baxter Harrington**

Baxter Harrington commenced the meeting by welcoming everyone. Karen Reed introduced Dr. Michael Royster as the new Director of Minority Health and Public Health Policy. Everyone introduced themselves and gave a brief overview of their duties and affiliates.

**Adoption of Agenda – Baxter Harrington**

The agenda was adopted as presented.

**Approval of Minutes from April 10, 2007 – Baxter Harrington**

Baxter Harrington indicated a few changes in the minutes. Based on these changes minutes would be approved. Approved minutes will be posted on OMH and Town Hall websites.

**Vision of New Director of Minority Health and Public Health Policy  
Office of Health Policy/Office of Minority Health – Dr. Michael Royster**

Dr. Royster gave a brief overview of his past work history. Dr. Royster was the Director of the Crater Health District in Petersburg for the last five years. Dr. Royster informed the Committee that his vision for the Office of Minority Health and Public Health Policy is to reduce or eliminate health inequities. To do that requires looking at access to health care and health care providers, improving behaviors that impact health and examining the broader social factors that influence and impact health. Dr. Royster provided the Committee with a handout outlining some of the ways that this could be accomplished. Dr. Royster stated that the office has made a budget request to VDH to hire additional staff, including a full time Minority Health Manager and an Epidemiologist.

**Committee Actions Items – from last meeting – Baxter Harrington**

Baxter Harrington questioned if there was any response from Dr. Stroube regarding a request for a reception to be held in Dr. Royster's honor. During the course of the meeting Dr. Stroube's office replied by stating that VDH did not have discretionary funds available for this event, nor could they solicit funds. In addition, no similar entity, such as the Virginia Board of Health has set a precedent regarding this request.

Karen Reed informed the committee that a request for \$10,000.00 for a series of Town Hall meetings and \$30,000.00 for a state-wide minority health conference had been submitted to management for approval. If approved, funds would not be available until July 1, 2008. She encouraged the committee to submit a full proposal with an itemized budget for each event. Rudy Wilson will work on this proposal and submit results to **the** committee by August 15, 2007.

The Committee discussed conducting a town hall meeting before the funds would be available in July 2008. Karen suggested looking at other states and how they secured funding for town hall meetings. Another suggestion would be to ask different communities to contribute towards this project. Lucie Ferguson volunteered to investigate other resources for these town hall meetings.

The Committee requested documentation regarding recommendations from past town hall meetings. Available documentation was provided and will be discussed at future meetings.

Rudy, Baxter, Lucie and David volunteered to meet via Polycom to develop a proposal for a statewide conference. One of the suggestions was to have a conference piggyback other major events to get gain a broader level of exposure. In these instances the media, critical minority leaders and political leaders will be asked to attend.

**The following items were submitted for the October 10, 2007 agenda:**

- Changing hours of meeting to 11:00 am-2:00 pm
- Listing of possible health related bills be considered for the 2008 General Assembly
- Meeting dates for 2008
- Follow-up on conference information

**Citizen Announcement – Michelle Chesser**

The 2004 General Assembly, in Senate Joint Resolution 25, directed the Joint Commission on Health Care to study the mental health needs and treatment of young minority adults in Virginia. For the study, they are compiling population demographics and looking at the issues of stigma, cultural competence of care providers, and minority representation in the workforce. The study will be presented to the Commission at the meeting on September 19, 2007. If anyone has any information or data they would like to share or would like to be involved with the study, please feel free to contact her at [mchesser@leg.state.va.us](mailto:mchesser@leg.state.va.us) or 804-786-5445.

**Next MHAC Meeting Date – 2007**

October 9, 2007 at 11 am – 2 pm.

**Anyone with questions or special needs should contact:**

**Cynthia Beadle, Minority Health Specialist**

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**Minutes prepared by:**

**Ellen McCutcheon/Cynthia Beadle**

**Minutes reviewed/submitted by:**

**Baxter Harrington**