

MHHEAC
Policy/Legislative Subcommittee Meeting
May 26, 2011
3:00 pm
Minutes

Attendees: **Gary Crum**, PhD, MPH (Chair); **Lucie Ferguson**, PhD, MPH, RN; **Claudia Tellez**, MPH (Vice-Chair)
Absent: **Gloria Addu-Ayensu**, MD, MPH; **Portia Lynne Cole**, PhD, MSW, LCSW
Staff: **Susan Triggs**, MPH, RN

Gary Crum called the meeting to order and, after welcoming everyone, reviewed the agenda. A synopsis of the subcommittee's purpose was provided on the agenda in two parts as follows:

According to the MHAC Procedural Guidelines:

"To identify, review and make recommendations on legislation, policy and procedures that impact minority health and health equity to the entire MHAC on issues that ultimately will be forwarded to the Health Commissioner."

This Committee's functions also have been summarized elsewhere as follows:

"Evaluating information received from the other two subcommittees and framing that information to highlight the root causes of health inequities and then formulating a recommendation to be brought to the core MHHEAC body."

The meeting began with a discussion about subcommittee membership and attendance. All agreed that, for the work MHHEAC is tasked to do, committed members are needed and must be recruited.

Claudia Tellez gave an overview of past focus areas that included recommendations for

- Making MHHEAC part of the Code of Virginia
- Obesity Prevention
- Pregnancy Care Access in Rural Communities

Claudia mentioned the fact that none of the recommendations sent forth over the past several years had been moved forward to the General Assembly. She wondered if MHHEAC recommendations are having any real impact. A discussion followed about the October 2010 meeting when Joe Hilbert talked with MHHEAC members about gauging what is important to the Health Commissioner and the Governor when developing recommendations. Members agreed that it is wise to follow the criteria given during that meeting (copy attached) when developing future recommendations.

Susan Triggs provided an overview of the strategic planning process, reminding members that by the next MHHEAC meeting on July 12, 2011 they have been asked to

- Choose issues to bring to the meeting for consideration by the larger group
- Think about Health Reform funding
- Consider relevant social determinants of health regarding the above items

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Attendees were reminded that, when choosing issues to bring to the larger MHHEAC meeting, they are asked to a) evaluate relevance to their partners, b) make determination and assess relevance, c) make issues universal, d) be strategic and flexible, e) consider funding, and f) ask, "Can this issue be used to engage broader stakeholders?"

An in-depth discussion followed regarding health reform issues from both a federal and state perspective, looking at financing, health equity, rural impact, and the controversial nature of related issues at all levels. It was determined that this group will focus on the Virginia health reform plan and work to provide recommendations for this plan. **A request was made to have a representative from the Virginia Health Reform Commission give a presentation at an MHHEAC meeting.** This will provide subcommittee members and the larger MHHEAC with information to help understand the Governor's viewpoint. Susan Triggs will investigate this possibility.

Next Steps

1. Ask other subcommittees to provide information to the Policy/Legislative Subcommittee that will facilitate formation of recommendations.
2. Listen out in the community as individuals for programs geared to minority populations and evaluate their approach in terms of health equity.
3. Investigate the feasibility of having a representative from the Virginia Health Reform Commission speak at an MHHEAC meeting.
4. Suggest new members for MHHEAC with expertise in
 - a. Health Impact Assessment
 - b. Business Management
 - c. Data Collection and Analysis
 - d. Legislative/Civic Involvement

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned.

Minutes prepared by: Susan Triggs, MPH, RN

Minutes reviewed by: Gary Crum, PhD, MPH