

Minority Health Advisory Committee (MHAC) Meeting Minutes

January 8, 2008

Location – Virginia Department of Health - Mezzanine Level Conference Room -Richmond, VA

Member Attendees: Baxter Harrington, MS, David Simmons, MSN, RN, CNN, Lucie Ferguson, PhD, MPH, RN, Gail Jennings, PhD, and Rudolph Wilson, PhD

Absentees: Paul Puryear, PhD, Annette Holmes, MSA, CPM, CPHQ, Michael Pyles, PhD, Judy Anderson, Gloria Adoyo-Ayensu, MD, MPH and Jane Cabarrus

OMHPHP Staff: Dr. Michael Royster, Karen E. Reed, M.A., Cynthia Beadle, and Ellen McCutcheon

Welcome & Introductions: Baxter Harrington

Mr. Harrington commenced the meeting by welcoming everyone, followed by MHAC members, and OMHPHP staff introductions.

Adoption of Agenda - MHAC Members

The agenda was adopted as presented.

Approval of Minutes from October 9, 2007 - MHAC Members

The minutes were approved with minor technical changes and posted to the website.

Status of OMHPHP Initiatives for Series Unnatural Causes - Is Inequality Making Us Sick?

In a continuing effort to promote health equity for all Virginians, Dr. Royster reported that the OMHPHP continues offering preview showings of the PBS documentary series Unnatural Causes, Is Inequality Making Us Sick – as a tool to facilitate discussions to address health inequities. OMHPHP is scheduled to meet with Secretary of HHS's staff and Governor's staff to discuss utilizing series in addressing health equity over multiple service areas.

Additionally, Dr. Royster informed the committee that the Governor has approved funding for two new positions for OMHPHP to address designating medically underserved areas in Virginia. This funding has to be approved by the General Assembly.

Karen Reed provided an update of the outcome of the meeting with the Richmond PBS TV station. PBS requested assistance in advertising the series. PBS expressed interest in hosting a panel discussion following the series. PBS informed OMHPHP that the series may be copied and used for educational/training purposes. Baxter Harrington indicated that MOTTEP has already begun promoting Unnatural Causes series as a way of addressing health inequities.

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MHAC members discussed a need for a post survey tool to assist in evaluating the effectiveness of using the Unnatural Causes series in screenings and discussing health inequity. The survey would be used to provide feedback from a cross section of the population and identify issues important to the audience. Also, this information will be useful in providing the planning framework for future town hall meetings. The OMHPHP agreed to research and develop a survey and evaluation tools and provide to the MHAC. Rudy Wilson provided content input for the evaluation tool. The evaluation tool is attached to the minutes and is available on the OMHPHP website.

Additionally, the OMHPHP is developing a train-the-trainer program for individuals who serve as facilitators of group forums to discuss health equity initiatives such as the Unnatural Causes screenings. The survey tool will be available online and included with the materials at the Train the Trainer Session. **The initial Train the Trainer session will be held on February 27 at the Virginia Department of Health, Mezzanine Conference Room, 109 Governor Street, Richmond, VA from 10:00 a.m. -noon. Attendees must reserve their seating by RSVP to Cindi Beadle by **February 25, 2008** at: Cindi.Beadle@vdh.virginia.gov or 804-864-7429.** Lastly, the OMHPHP created an Activities Reporting Matrix form (attached) for members to capture their activities. A sample matrix utilizing some of the activities identified by Rudy Wilson is attached.

Rudy Wilson suggested the OMHPHP create a video to introduce the health equity initiative via the Unnatural Causes series that could be used as a prelude to screenings. The video would explain VDH's role in promoting the series and include Virginia health inequity statistics. Dr. Royster indicated that OMHPHP would explore the request.

Development of MHAC 2008 Action Plan - MHAC Members

Committee members discussed action plan ideas for 2008. The following is a list of activities considered:

- Continue to explore feasibility of hosting a Health Disparities Conference in 2009 that would provide topic forums to enhance policies and share community concerns.
- Increase knowledge and awareness about the committee by developing MHAC fact sheet/brochure.
- Engage key stakeholders in promoting health equity initiatives via utilization of Unnatural Causes screenings and public awareness campaign.
- Draft a letter of introduction promoting the health equity initiative (Lucie Ferguson) and forward to Baxter Harrington for review and distribution. This

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letter would serve as a method to engage key stakeholders. Some organizations identified were:

Baptist General Convention
NAACP
Urban League
National Black Nurses Association
Virginia Nurses Association
American Nurses Association
200+ Men's Club, etc...

- Develop an online statewide minority health survey. The data from this survey would direct the types of initiatives and activities included in the MHAC action plan. Subcommittee members (Rudy Wilson, David Simmons and Lucie Ferguson) will provide a draft of the survey components at the April 8, 2008 meeting. If the committee approves the survey, a proposal will be drafted for funding consideration in the Commissioner's Legislative 2009 budget package.
- Committee members expressed interest in having education and awareness presentations at 2008 meetings. Anticipated presentation outcomes would include enhancing committee knowledge and identifying barriers to health and guiding policy recommendations. Suggested topics/speakers include:
 - Mental Health Issues
 - Drug Abuse
 - American Cancer Society (**Note :**) Keenan Caldwell, Legislative Advocate for the American Cancer Society was identified as a future potential speaker. The presentation focus would be Community Mobilization and Advocacy.
 - Chronic Disease
 - Violence/Crime
 - Suicide
 - Diabetes
 - Infant Mortality

Committee members decided to invite a speaker representing Mental Health to the April 8, 2008 meeting. The presentation would include an overview of mental health programs, minority initiatives, and resources for minority communities and priority service areas.

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Identify MHAC Health Equity Plans - Unnatural Causes Series Partnerships/Initiatives

At the December 2007 meeting, MHAC members decided they would report at the January 2008 meeting activities/organizations that each member would address health equity initiatives and incorporate screenings of the PBS series Unnatural Causes - “Is Inequality Making Us Sick?” Committee members identified the following:

Gail Jennings

- To increase awareness of health inequities and facilitate discussions. Promote the series airing by advertising in the December 2007 “Cancer Notes” newsletter (Comprehensive Cancer Control Project Newsletter) published by the VDH, Comprehensive Cancer Control program.
- Promote the airing of the PBS series by advertising in the March 2008 “Cancer Notes” newsletter (Comprehensive Cancer Control Project Newsletter). This will include a companion article on the social determinants of health.
- Provide statistics on health disparities with regard to various diseases and risk factors to be included in any promotional materials.

Lucie Ferguson

- Promote health equity initiatives utilizing the Unnatural Causes series during Cultural Diversity Committee meetings in cooperation with the Bon Secour Cross Cultural Office.
- Promote health equity initiatives utilizing the Unnatural Causes series as part of Black History Month activities throughout Bon Secour’s health system, i.e. brown bag lunches, post Unnatural Causes Series campaign fliers on website with link to Unnatural Causes homepage.
- Distribute Unnatural Causes fliers at Bon Secours Health System hospitals, Care-A-Vans, etc
- Promote on Channel 12 “Call for Health” series. This series provides a community platform for promotion and education of emerging research, promotion and topics related to health.
- Promote health equity initiatives utilizing the Unnatural Causes series through the Parish Nurse Network.
- Send Unnatural Causes campaign fliers to The Urban League, NAACP, CPAC (Cancer Plan Action Coalition), Chambers of Commerce, Minority Business League, Asian Chambers of Commerce, Free Clinics and the Healthy Pathways

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Coalition (Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention Program) for member distribution and/or posting on each organization's website.

David Simmons

- Promote health equity initiatives utilizing the Unnatural Causes series at Quality Community Council Board Meetings (QCC). QCC's seeks to support and improve the lives of those who live in the Charlottesville community by cultivating grassroots leadership, promoting civic engagement, and addressing those problems that detract from a higher quality of life for its citizens.
- Promote health equity initiatives utilizing the Unnatural Causes series association meetings, i.e., Black Nurses Association, Fraternities/Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Workplace (UVA) and Churches
- Promote health equity initiatives utilizing the Unnatural Causes series through State/National Associations i.e., National Black Nurses Association, American National Nurses Association and the Virginia Nurses Association.
- Promote health equity initiatives utilizing the Unnatural Causes series and distribution of Unnatural Causes campaign fliers through Health Depots. Health Depots are established venues such as Barber Shops, Beauty Salons, and Convenience Stores who provide space for community based services offering preventive health screenings and ancillary health services to indigent /migrant populations.
- Promote health equity initiatives utilizing the Unnatural Causes series at Community Activities such as civic group meetings, rotary club meetings, etc.

Rudy Wilson

- Incorporate health equity initiatives utilizing the Unnatural Causes series and distribution of Unnatural Causes campaign fliers during Norfolk State University Black History Month recognition.
- Incorporate health equity initiatives utilizing the Unnatural Causes series at Norfolk State University Department of Political Science and in related classroom presentations.
- Promote and incorporate health equity initiatives utilizing the Unnatural Causes series at local churches via health forums and traditional ministries.
- Partner with local radio stations to promote health equity initiatives such as Unnatural Causes - "Is Inequality Making Us Sick?" education and awareness PSA campaigns
- Partner with local T.V. talk show (2) stations to provide an education and awareness forum introducing the Unnatural Causes - "Is Inequality Making Us Sick?" campaign and a platform to engage in dialogue promoting action steps to address health equity beyond the airing of the documentary.

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Baxter Harrington

- Promote health equity initiatives utilizing the Unnatural Causes series with video loop presentations and discussion at MOTTEP 2008 Health Series scheduled for :
 - February 23 Infant Mortality
 - May 10 Organ Failure -
 - July 19 Diabetes
 - August 1 Minority Donor Awareness Day

Identify MHAC Areas of Legislative Input/Action - MHAC Members

MHAC discussed their possible roles in providing legislative input as a committee. The committee expressed interest in meeting with legislators on behalf of MHAC and other potential roles. The committee will view the outcomes of the 2008 General Assembly session at a future meeting. This will serve to guide the committee's focus and direction in 2009.

OMHPHP will forward legislative bills of possible interest to MHAC. Dr. Royster spoke with the Commissioner and inquired about the extent of MHAC member's role in the legislative process and found that MHAC members are encouraged to make legislative recommendations to the State Health Commissioner. However, MHAC members are **not authorized to act independently** on behalf of MHAC in any capacity outside of the meetings.

Other Items:

MHAC members expressed interest in having a list of major conferences throughout the state pertaining to health issues. There was discussion as to where this information would be captured, such as on the Governor's website, etc. As this item was greater than VDH domain, it was decided that OMHPHP would continue to post events as the office becomes aware of them. Members were encouraged to send items to Cynthia Beadle as they learn of events/conferences in Virginia or neighboring jurisdictions. Note: It was discussed that although collection and posting of statewide conference information is out of the purview of VDH, there is still a strong need for this coordination as it has great potential for maximizing efficiencies thus this item could be referred the Commissioner/General Assembly/Governor, etc. for implementation.

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Meeting Attendance

The committee discussed promoting public attendance at MHAC meetings to enhance education and awareness about the committee’s purpose, goals and initiatives. All committee meetings are open to the public.

2008 MHAC Role Assignments

- Nominations for the MHAC facilitator role should be forwarded to OMHPHP by 03/08/2008.
- Members who serve on the Pandemic Flu Advisory Committee on behalf of MHAC will indicate if they are interested in continuing in that role.

Public Comment:

There was no public comment.

MHAC Scheduled 2008 Quarterly Meeting Dates
April 8, 2008 July 8, 2008 October 14, 2008 December 9, 2008
<u>Meeting time:</u> 11a.m. - 2 p.m. Meeting location: Mezzanine Level Conference Room Virginia Department of Health James Madison Building 109 Governor Street -Richmond, VA

For questions please contact: Cynthia Beadle, Health Equity Specialist
804-864-7427 Cindi.Beadle@vdh.virginia.gov

Minutes prepared by: Ellen McCutcheon/Cynthia Beadle
Minutes submitted by: Baxter Harrington, MHAC Facilitator