

**Minority Health Advisory Committee Meeting
January 13, 2009 – 11:00am – 2:00pm
Richmond, VA - Mezzanine Conference Room**

Member Attendees: David Simmons, MSN, RN, CNN;, Miliagritos L. Flinn, Michael A. Pyles, PhD; Claudia M. Tellez, MD , Lucie Ferguson, PhD, MPH, RN; Gail Jennings, PhD; Rudolph Wilson, PhD, Judy Anderson, and Hassan Yousuf, MD,

Joseph Hilbert, Executive Advisor to the Health Commissioner

Members Absent: Tram Nguyen, Juan Villalona, MD; Baxter Harrington, MS, Jane G. Cabarrus, Melissa Canaday, Gloria Addo-Ayensu, MD, MPH,

Staff Attendance: Dr. Michael Royster, MD, MPH, Karen Reed, MA, Susan L. Triggs, RN, MPH, Thursa Crittenden and Ellen McCutcheon

1. Welcome

- a. All members were welcomed by MHAC Chair, David Simmons

2. Agenda

- a. **VDH Commissioner Karen Remley unable to attend meeting due to General Assembly responsibilities**
- b. Plaque presentation assigned to Joe Hilbert, Executive Advisor to VDH Commissioner
- c. Commissioner's Updates presenter assigned to Joe Hilbert
- d. MHAC Strategic Planning 2009
 - i. Item to be placed at the beginning of the meeting agenda for April
 - ii. Subcommittee Chairs asked to provide information for April meeting
- e. Motion made and seconded to adopt agenda as changed

3. Minutes

- a. October 14, 2008 minutes were reviewed by MHAC attendees
- b. Motion made and seconded to accept minutes

4. Presentation to Dr. Paul Puryear

- a. Joe Hilbert presented Dr. Puryear with a plaque to commemorate his years of dedicated service to MHAC and to the Commonwealth of Virginia
- b. Dr. Puryear thanked MHAC and talked about some of the relationships he nurtured over the years while working to advise several VDH Commissioners regarding the health of minority populations throughout the Commonwealth
- c. Michael Pyles, David Simmons, and Rudolph Wilson offered their commendations to Dr. Puryear for his years of dedicated service

- d. A group picture was taken with Dr. Puryear and all MHAC members in attendance

5. Commissioner's Updates

- a. Joe Hilbert provided a legislative update per the request of MHAC members
 - i. He advised the group that he serves as the VDH Legislative Liaison to the General Assembly
 - ii. He identifies all bills that affect healthcare and public health
 - iii. Makes recommendations to the Governor
- b. Currently the state budget is the most pressing issue
 - i. Estimated that there will be a shortfall through June 30, 2010
 - ii. State officials are required by law to maintain a balanced budget
 - iii. Budget reduction plans have been submitted by all agencies throughout the Commonwealth
 - iv. Currently looking at approximately an 11% decrease
 - v. Unspent balances were also taken to help make up for the shortfall
- c. General Assembly will decide which budget items they will accept from Governor's recommendations
 - i. They are aware of all recommendations made from agency 5%, 10%, and 15% budgets and can choose the ones they deem most appropriate
 - ii. VDH Senior Management is meeting with staff of Senate Finance Committee on January 19th to discuss VDH budget
- d. Four big questions are guiding the state budget process at this point:
 - i. Will the amount of the projected revenue shortfall increase?
 1. Most of state revenue comes from income tax and sales tax
 2. With the economy worsening, these revenue streams may also weaken, possibly causing an increase in the projected shortfall
 - ii. Will the General Assembly agree with the Governor's proposed cigarette tax?
 - iii. Will the General Assembly agree to full amount the Governor is proposing be withdrawn from the Rainey Day Fund?
 - iv. What will be the dollar amount that Virginia will receive from the President-elect's stimulus package, and will we receive it in time for it to be included in the state budget?
- e. At this point, any legislation requiring funding is going to have problems because of the economic situation.

- f. Joe Hilbert fielded questions from members regarding their concerns about the legislative process, what they have heard, and what actions they can and cannot take as MHAC members
- g. Legislation
 - i. No Smoking Legislation
 - 1. Five components
 - a. No smoking in restaurants
 - b. No smoking in all public places
 - c. No smoking in new restaurants
 - d. Two bills regarding authority of localities to enact ordinances
 - 2. Opponents argue that 68% of restaurants in Virginia are already smoke free – why fix something that is not broken?
 - a. Number is not evenly distributed throughout the Commonwealth
 - b. This data is being used against the Governor's bills
 - 3. Other data is available on the VDH website with percentage rates by localities
 - a. This data must be used more broadly to help support the Governor's agenda
 - b. Markets in each locality are different – some with 6% and others with varying degrees of smoke-free restaurants overall
 - c. Gail Jennings asked if data included cafeterias, jails, and other similar places where people eat
 - i. Joe Hilbert advised that Health Department criteria only includes fast food and full-service restaurants
 - ii. Full-service restaurants are 58% smoke free
 - d. Claudia Tellez asked about this being judged as a “regressive tax that disproportionately affects the poor”
 - i. The importance of using health care indicators with data was emphasized
 - e. Michael Pyles pointed out that advertising in poor communities is excessively high
 - i. Messages should be balanced with pro-health advertising
 - 4. Claudia Tellez asked for the bill number for the cigarette tax increase and pointed out that Tobacco Settlement money will be used for Medicaid

- a. Joe Hilbert will send the requested information to Dr. Royster
- h. Youth Tobacco Settlement Foundation
 - i. Will be expanded to include childhood obesity prevention
 - ii. This organization has a proven record of developing effective prevention messages with children
- i. Breast Cancer Prevention
 - i. Every Woman's Life
 - 1. Goal is to treat more of the women that are diagnosed with breast cancer
 - 2. VDH, Medicaid, and American Cancer Society are working on this bill
 - 3. This bill will authorize the state to accept private donations to expand their reach
 - 4. Needed is a document from the Department of Planning and Budgets that says there is no fiscal impact
 - ii. Claudia Tellez had many questions about Medicaid reimbursement
 - 1. Joe Hilbert promised to get back to her through the information he will send to Dr. Royster
 - iii. Michael Pyles advised that the number of providers women can access will increase with the approval of Option 3
- j. Dental Hygiene Access
 - i. Limitations
 - 1. Three priority areas identified
 - a. Southside
 - b. Cumberland Plateau
 - c. Lenowisco Health Department
 - 2. Uses only dental hygienists employed by LHD
 - a. Will develop practice protocol
 - b. Educational and preventive services
 - c. Will not function independently
 - d. Dentist must approve treatment plan
 - i. Ten month implementation period
 - ii. Dentist available for direct supervision only
 - iii. These two points are being evaluated for expansion, e.g. longer than 10 months, and non-direct supervision by Dentist
 - ii. David Simmons highlighted inherent problems when getting into scope of practice

1. Joe Hilbert advised that this is being negotiated with the Dental Association
- k. Infant Mortality (January 12, 2009)
 - i. House Joint Resolution 667
 1. Would establish joint legislation subcommittee on infant mortality
 2. VDH Commissioner and Commissioner of Department of Social Services joint effort
 - l. Rudolph Wilson asked about the timeline for introducing these bills.
 - i. Joe Hilbert will provide link to website for state bills which also includes link to meeting agendas
 - ii. Will send to Dr. Royster for forwarding
 - m. Claudia Tellez asked for timeline for sending Letters of Support
 - i. Joe Hilbert answered, "The sooner the better."
 1. Identify the committee
 2. Send e-mail to committee members
 - ii. The process moves quickly
 - iii. Urged MHAC members to get communications sent even in their individual capacities
 - n. Dr. Royster inquired about how MHAC members should present their recommendations concerning legislation
 - i. Joe responded that they can say, "**On behalf of MHAC**"
 - ii. **This is to be done ONLY WHEN both the Governor and Commissioner support the bill. Otherwise, they should only speak as private citizens or as members of some other organization.**
 - iii. Lucie Ferguson advised the group that the Heart/Lung Institute of Virginia is providing a workshop on "How To Talk to Legislators" on January 21st, 9:30 a.m. at the Library of Virginia

6. Ongoing Updates about Unnatural Causes (UC)

- a. Lucie Ferguson had two updates
 - i. There will be a Petersburg Community Meeting on January 22nd.
 1. Dr. Royster and the Crater Health Department Health Director are speaking
 - ii. She is also working with Native American Indian groups to offer UC at Pow Wow scheduled in February
- b. Dr. Hasan Yousuf asked if there was any plan in the works to target chronic diseases and obesity

- i. Petersburg has the 8th lowest life expectancy rate in the nation
- ii. Dr. Royster urged support of organizations in Petersburg that can help promote health and health equity
- c. Gail Jennings told the group about the Division of Chronic Disease Prevention and Control's recent "Healthy Communities" grant submission which will utilize UC as part of its implementation
- d. Others are using UC to shift the focus of church programs
- e. Michael Pyles asked if the Mezzanine Conference Room could be used for large gatherings related to UC Town Hall Meetings
 - i. Dr. Royster said that this would be possible to arrange during daylight hours though a community setting may be preferred

7. Working Lunch OMHPHP Updates

- a. Dr. Royster
 - i. Health Impact Assessments (HIA)
 - 1. HIA was modified to allow the OMHPHP to provide input to the Governor's office
 - ii. Interagency Work Group (IWG)
 - 1. IWG was delayed but will be revisited after the current General Assembly session
 - iii. Virginia Rural Health plan has been completed (see handout)
 - 1. Available at <http://www.va-srhp.org>
 - 2. This group is looking for rural health partners around the Commonwealth
 - 3. Asking MHAC members to assess how their organization could become involved
 - iv. NIH Center on Minority Health and Health Disparities Conference December 2008
 - 1. Dr. Royster presented on OMHPHP
 - 2. Presentation was well received
 - 3. Growing interest in looking at health from SDOH and health equity perspective
 - v. Virginia Board of Health
 - 1. Dr. Royster will present on 2008 Virginia Health Equity Report which can be accessed at <http://www.vdh.state.va.us/healthpolicy/2008report.htm>
 - 2. He plans to show an UC episode and talk about what VDH is doing in this regard
 - vi. Health Equity Conference
 - 1. Dates have been changed to September 10 and 11, 2009
 - 2. The location is to be determined
 - vii. Mosby Court Meeting on Health Inequities

1. Community-Based Participatory Approach is being implemented in Mosby Court
 - a. Dr. Royster is on the Steering Committee and the Community Connections Committee
 - b. This process is different because the universities, health department and other organizations involved will take their lead from the community
 - c. Michael Pyles asked about VCU's objectives and progress with decreasing emergency department use at the south side clinic
- viii. Health Workforce Advisory Committee
 1. Dr. Royster is participating in the planning meeting coming up

b. Karen Reed

i. By-laws Subcommittee

1. There was discussion about whether MHAC was a part of the Code of the Commonwealth of Virginia.
 - a. Michael Pyles indicated that it is not a part of the Code
2. The purpose is to update the Operating Guidelines and make them relevant for what MHAC is now
3. Asking for volunteers
 - a. Michael Pyles
 - b. Rudolph Wilson
 - c. David Simmons
4. **Also asking for volunteers from MHAC members not participating on other subcommittees**
5. Needed by the April 2009 meeting
6. OMHPHP will send volunteers generic bylaws to use as models

ii. Opinion/Editorial pieces

1. If MHAC members are interested in writing articles expressing their personal opinions on health equity issues to newspapers or writing editorial comments to newspapers, OMHPHP will assist with writing and provide support
 - a. Contact Thursa Crittenden

8. Sub-Committee Reports Updates:

- a. Legislative/Policy (Claudia Tellez reporting)
 - i. The subcommittee will support any legislation coming through the Governor's office
 - ii. Will specifically issue a Letter of Support for

1. Cigarette tax increase
 2. Tobacco Settlement fund usage for childhood obesity prevention
 3. Infant mortality
- iii. Lucie Ferguson asked for additional information on the rural OB Centers for which funding was deleted from the state budget
 - iv. David Simmons asked that bill information be sent out to all MHAC members
 1. Joe Hilbert will send website information to Dr. Royster
 2. OMHPHP will monitor information and send to MHAC members
- b. Community Engagement (Judy Anderson reporting)
- i. Group will connect with local health departments and the MAPP (Mobilizing Action through Planning and Partnership) programs already in place
 1. These programs provide a readily available extensive network of local community stakeholders
 - ii. Town Hall Meetings – priority areas
 1. Committee members will review
 - a. 2008 Virginia Health Equity Report accessible at <http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/healthpolicy/2008report.htm>
 - b. OMHPHP presentations that focus on health outcome and social determinants in Northern Virginia, the Richmond area, and Hampton Roads, accessible at <http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/healthpolicy/policyanalysis/spatial-analysis.htm>
 - c. Division of Chronic Disease Prevention and Control matrix of Health Indicators by Health District accessible at <http://www.vahealth.org/cdpc/Data.htm>
 2. Members will decide on priority areas after reviewing the above information
 - iii. Health Equity Conference (September 10 and 11, 2009)
 1. OMHPHP, VPHA (Virginia Public Health Association), VCU (Virginia Commonwealth University), UVA (University of Virginia), and others are collaborating on this effort
 2. MHAC members would like to volunteer for conference planning committees
 3. Information on who the planning committee chairs are is included in MHAC meeting packet

- iv. LHD and Central Office Best Practices Survey
 - 1. The subcommittee is adapting language in OMHPHP LHD survey to integrate their information needs into the one survey that can be sent out to LHDs and central office
 - 2. Dr. Addo-Ayensu is traveling but will provide some additional language upon her return

9. MHAC Strategic Planning 2009

- a. Tabled until the April 2009 meeting
- b. Will be placed at the beginning of the agenda

10. Announcements

- a. Rudolph Wilson asked about information regarding the University of North Carolina Minority Health Conference web cast scheduled for February 27th
 - i. Information will be sent out to all MHAC members
- b. Lucie Ferguson is providing an alternative meeting site for the MHAC meeting in April 2009

11. Public Comment

- a. No public comment

12. Meeting Adjourned



The next MHAC meeting is scheduled for:

April 14, 2009

Time: 11:00 am-2:00 pm

Location – Bon Secours Richmond Health System, 4121 Cox Road, Suite 110, Richmond, VA 23060

Future MHAC Meeting Dates – 2008

July 14, 2009, October 13, 2009, December 8, 2009 **Time:** 11:00 am-2:00 pm

Questions or special needs – please contact: Susan Triggs, Health Equity Specialist – 804-864-7429 – susan.triggs@vdh.virginia.gov

Minutes prepared by: Ellen McCutcheon and Susan Triggs
Minutes reviewed by: David Simmons, MHAC Chair