

MHAC
Policy/Legislative Subcommittee Meeting
March 25, 2009

MHAC Attendees: Lucie Ferguson, Michael Pyles, Claudia Tellez

MHAC Absent: Rudolph Wilson

OMHPHP Staff: Karen Reed, Susan Triggs

Public Attendees: None

Introductions

Members introduced themselves

Minutes

January 9, 2009 minutes were read and approved.

General Assembly Discussion

The group discussed recommendation procedures for GA session 2010. Members agreed that GA members should be approached no later than July to facilitate their ability to focus on what is being asked of them. They are barraged by meetings and people with questions during the GA session and may be too busy to hear what is being asked of them.

Health Equity Conference

- Susan highlighted the purpose and main speakers of the Health Equity Conference
 - Dr. Troutman, Louisville Metro Public Health and Wellness
 - Dr. Jones, CDC
 - Dr. Frumkin, CDC

- Subcommittee members were asked to participate on the conference planning committee.
 - **Susan agreed to send the proposed agenda when she sends the draft of the minutes for this meeting**
 - Members asked that someone speak at the April 14, 2009 MHAC meeting about the HE Conference, its goals and agenda.
- **Additional potential sponsors for the conference**
 - Norfolk State
 - Bon Secours
 - Virginia Latino Advisory Board (for Latino contacts)
 - Specifically mentioned Sindy Benavides, Latino Liaison & Director of Gubernatorial Appointments to Governor Kaine
 - Virginia Asian Chamber of Commerce
 - Subcommittee members feel that the visible presence of members of the diverse minority populations of Virginia will increase the credibility of the conference
- Susan advised the group regarding the American Public Health Association Community-Based Participatory Public Health Caucus' interest in the conference

OB Centers

- Members asked about the status of the budget shortfall for OB Centers in Emporia and the Northern Neck
- Susan reiterated information received from communications between Kathy Wibberly, Shirley McAdoo and Ken Cook.

- The group restated their concerns about high risk women who may not seek care in the first or the third trimester of pregnancy
- Subcommittee members discussed clinics that have received funding recently
 - Loudon \$1.3 m
 - Prince William \$1.3 m
 - Verna Harris \$1.3 m
 - Daily Planet \$177,000

Medicaid

- Lucie Ferguson suggested the subcommittee issue a notice asking everyone to contact legislators to support health care reform
 - The health care system is broken
 - There is only one plan on the table – none offered by any others
- Michael Pyles suggested we get a question added to VCU’s *Commonwealth Poll*
 - This would be a powerful way to bring attention to the Medicaid issue
 - The question would be formulated by Subcommittee members
 - Michael will talk to someone at VCU regarding the process and the payment
 - Are Tobacco Settlement funds available to pay for this?

Money for OMHPHP

- Most money is going for direct services these days
- Can we fashion a scenario to close gap by
 - Increasing awareness
 - Encouraging women to seek care

- Susan pointed out that the SDOH are barriers that cause people to make the decisions they make regarding their health
 - By targeting the SDOH, we are closing the gap
- Claudia pointed out the fact that VA is the lowest among all U.S. states for Medicaid reimbursement payments

Safety Net

- Michael Pyles wants representatives from Medicaid to come and present to an MHAC quarterly meeting
- Lucie Ferguson suggests a conference entitled something similar to, “Reducing Health Disparities in Virginia – Access to Care”
 - Topics can include
 - Medical homes
 - Telemedicine
 - Retention problems related to people not re-enrolling in
 - FAMIS
 - Medicaid
 - People discontinue their enrollment and start going back to the E.R.
 - Should also consider those not eligible to enroll in FAMIS and Medicaid
 - SDOH can be framed around Access to Care

- Karen Reed advised members that the Healthy People 2020 focuses on the broader perspective of health related to the social determinants of health
 - OMHPHP will apply for a small grant available to states to do some strategic planning around SDOH and health equity in Virginia
 - Michael Pyles suggest that personnel costs should not be part of this funding
 - **Asked members to look at the National Medical Association's best practices regarding SDOH**

OMHPHP Staff Reminders to Subcommittee Members:

- MHAC's role is to advise the VDH Health Commissioner on issues relative to minority health around the Commonwealth
- All MHAC meetings are public meetings and must begin and end on time
 - Members asked that all meetings be posted as a two hour meeting

Issues for Quarterly Meeting:

Karen Reed asked the group to determine the issues they would identify to report to the larger MHAC membership and to the Commissioner during the quarterly meeting on

April 14, 2009

- All GA issues should be brought to members no later than July
- Health Equity Conference update
 - Help in search for additional sponsors
 - Ethnic diversity among presenters

- The VCU question for the Commonwealth Pole is part of a multi-step process to form recommendations for the larger MHAC group
- Healthy People 2020 focus and MHAC

Public Comment: None

Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned.

Minutes completed and submitted by Susan L. Triggs