

## COMMISSIONER'S MINORITY HEALTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

April 13, 2010 – 11:00 am – 2:00 pm

Sacred Heart Center, 1400 Perry Street, Richmond, Virginia 23224

**Member Attendees:** Via Phone: Jane G. Cabarrus; Gary Crum, PhD, MPH; Sandra Cherry, PhD  
In Person: Gloria Addo-Ayensu, MD, MPH; Tia Campbell, RN, MSN, NCSN; Melissa Canaday;  
Portia Lynne Cole, PhD, MSW, LCSW; Maria Conley, BSW; Tonya Davis, MS, MBA; Lucie  
Ferguson, PhD, MPH, RN; William L. Lee, DMin; Ethlyn McQueen-Gibson, RN, MSN; Tinh duc  
Phan; Edward A. Scott, PhD; David Simmons, MSN, RN, CNN; Theresa Teekah, BS, MA, MPH; and  
Claudia M. Tellez, MPH

**Members Absent:** Judy Anderson; Bre-Onna De Laine, Student; Carl A. Gibson, MD, FACP;  
Thomas K. Irungu, MD, MPH; Michael A. Pyles, PhD; Rudolph Wilson, PhD; and Hassan Yousuf,  
MD

**Staff Attendance:** Michael Royster, MD, MPH; Karen Reed, MA; Susan Triggs, RN, MPH; Maame  
Gyamfuah and Michael Wilkerson – Interns

### 1. Welcome

Meeting called to order by Gloria Addo-Ayensu, MHAC Chair.

### 2. Agenda

The agenda was adopted by MHAC members

### 3. Minutes

January 12, 2010 minutes were approved as written by MHAC members.

### 4. Statement of Commissioner MHAC minutes (Presented by Dr. Royster)

- She apologizes for not being able to attend. She had another meeting out of state. She has read the resumes of all new members and looks forward to meeting them in person at an upcoming meeting.
- The VDH H1N1 Campaign was a success. Twenty-six percent of the eligible population in the state was vaccinated. This exceeded VDH's goal and the national average.
- Policy recommendations can be submitted to Dr. Remley anytime during the year. Recommendations can be related to VDH policy, legislative policy, and other policies that may impact health equity in Virginia.

### 5. OMHPHP Updates

Dr. Royster

- There will be changes in the OMHPHP due to budget cuts. Though OMHPHP has been spared during previous budget cycle cuts, during the last cycle, the 2011-2012 budget passed by the General Assembly and signed by the Governor will eliminate the IT Support person and the Workforce Support person and \$70,000 in funds to support workforce initiatives. In addition, Thursa Crittenden's gubernatorial appointment under Gov. Kaine's administration has come to an end. The small staff means that the need to prioritize and delegate among partners is greater than ever.
- The Health Equity Report will be updated and released late in 2010. The focus will be similar to the 2008 Health Equity Report. We are surveying people who access the report for their input. The report will include a Health Opportunity Index, which will identify critical medical and social determinants of health and track them over time in conjunction with global health outcome indicators.
- Partnership with the University of Virginia and the Virginia Public Health Association: This is a follow up to the Health Equity Conference and consists of a series of

educational webinars. The first webinar will be on April 23, 2010 and is titled: Health Impact Assessment – Health Equity. Other webinars in the series will deal with the topics of obesity, birth outcomes, and racism/classism/sexism. **MHAC will be on the mailing list to receive information regarding date and time of future webinars.**

- Richmond Mayor – Dwight Jones has created a Blue Ribbon Commission on Health Policy and asked Dr. Royster to participate. The group is interested in looking at social determinants of health and how the city of Richmond can develop policy to promote health.
- The General Assembly passed a Health Workforce Development Authority bill which will become effective July 1, 2010. The authority is made up of universities and other partners committed to increasing the health workforce. It will coordinate health workforce efforts statewide. The Authority may be able to benefit from money available through The Federal Health Reform Legislation. The OMHPHP hopes the Authority will be able to take on some of the office's workforce functions.
- The OMHPHP received \$15 million in a State Health Access Grant. This grant will help develop insurance coverage for small business employees around the state and will provide information to small businesses on how to implement the program.
- Health Reform was passed by Congress and signed by the President. The legislation will eventually expand health insurance coverage to 95% of the population. During the years 2010 to 2015, an additional \$7 billion will become available in grants focused on health promotion. More money will become available as time passes to fund prevention.

Summary of the bill can be found at [www.kff.org](http://www.kff.org)

- National Office of Minority Health has been made a part of the Federal Code and the National Center for Minority Health and Health Disparities has been elevated to the level of Institute. Health care providers are now required to report race and ethnicity data on their patients. This data collection will help monitor and promote health care equity.

#### Karen Reed

- The federal Healthy People 2020 Evaluation Grant began in July 2009. It involves presentations to address the HP2020 framework and health equity and social determinants of health. Dr. Remley has made presentations to a pilot group from the Governor's cabinet, the Virginia Rural Caucus and is planning presentations to the Council on Virginia's Future (Virginia Performs), and other interested stakeholders. The project includes the development of an online toolkit that addresses ways to engage the Healthy People 2020 framework and goals. The tool is targeted to policy makers and legislators.
- The Division of Health Equity (DHE) continues with its community-based initiatives: Susan Triggs, Health Equity Specialist, is offering Train-the-Trainer presentations based on using the "Unnatural Causes: Is inequality making us sick?" video series to enlighten new MHAC members and communities regarding broader perspectives of health and health equity.
- The DHE has been involved in presentations addressing Health Equity for a couple of years. Currently an intern from Virginia Tech is conducting a survey to evaluate this project. Interviews have been conducted with some MHAC members and stakeholders around the state. The valuation results are pending and will be reported on at a future MHAC meeting.
- Annually, the DHE provides leadership in planning and hosting four Heritage Month Programs during the nationally designated months for African Americans, Asian Americans, Hispanic Americans, and Native American Indians. The next program will occur on May 20, 2010 and will focus on the Asian-American population of Virginia. This program will discuss the social determinants of mental health and some of the best practices and partnerships that have developed. MHAC members were

encouraged to attend these programs at VDH or via their local Health Department. **A schedule of the programs will be added to the OMHPHP website.**

- Congregational Health Initiative: Susan Triggs is leading this project in consultation with the OMHPHP Division of Primary Care and Rural Health to implement a “next steps” process for the Congregational Health Assessments completed in four areas in rural Virginia. Funds have been requested for creation of the Community Health Ambassador Program that will be piloted in Essex County and will involve engaging lay community members through faith-based organizations in the community to help change health outcomes for residents in the area.
- Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Vulnerable Populations Grant Opportunity: The DHE is exploring a partnership with the Cameron Foundation (Petersburg, Virginia), Baptist General Convention, and other partners regarding developing a grant proposal that will focus on the Petersburg area targeting adolescents and young adults.
- Navigating the Health Care System project began several years ago to explore health care needs related to migrant and immigrant populations in Virginia. A tool kit and website are being developed in partnership with Northern Virginia Area Health Education Centers (AHEC) to teach the targeted populations how to Navigate the U.S. Healthcare System. The project has been created in Spanish and will be expanded to other languages.
- Medical Interpretation networking needs have been identified as a result of input received during the 2009 Health Equity Conference. The DHE is providing leadership along with the Northern Virginia AHEC. The goal of this collaborative effort is to create a statewide network interested in medical language interpretation, sharing resources, and increasing efficiencies, including a resource database for stakeholders to access.
- The OMHPHP is currently seeking approval to fill the CLAS Act Coordinator position.
- The 2010 Virginia Language Assessment Report will be completed and issued soon. The report will be put on the OMHPHP website. MHAC will be notified.
- The DHE is partnering on a pilot project with a Virginia Commonwealth University Collaborative that is exploring providing medical interpretation grants for students at the end of their language training when they will be enrolled in service learning or an internship. Grant recipients would then provide needed volunteer medical interpretation services to the physicians enrolled in the Access Now group. MHAC members were provided some background information on rules governing VDH’s medical interpreter training program.

## 6. Strategic Planning

- Dr. Addo-Ayensu gave an overview of MHAC’s January 12, 2010 meeting. It was noted that, due to time limitations, some of the ideas were not fully captured/presented, and the recommendations did not have the level of specificity to make them actionable. The intent of this meeting was to recap, further detail the ideas, prioritize the recommendations, and develop an action plan on how recommendations would be implemented. However, since half of the current MHAC members are new and did not participate in the January meeting, the process was amended to provide new members an opportunity for input in the development of the recommendations. To that end, the strategic planning prioritizing exercise will be continued at the July 2010 meeting.
  - During the time between the April and July 2010 meetings, members are encouraged to send any additional recommendations to Susan, who will consolidate them and send them back out to members and post on the OMHPHP website.
  - **The link to that portion of the website and the link to the resources part of the OMHPHP website will be sent to MHAC members.**
- There was discussion about what exactly are the Health Commissioner’s priority areas. The answer was that the strategic plan is an effort to support her priority areas as outlined in her

letter to MHAC and her subsequent statement to MHAC in January 2010. The priority areas are infant mortality reduction, obesity prevention, and Healthy People 2020.

**Following are notes and action steps from the discussions on the Commissioner's priority areas.**

- Mobilizing for Action through Planning and Partnership (**MAPP**)
  - **Members are asked to find out about the MAPP process in their area** by contacting the local health department director and asking to join the local public health system stakeholder team.
    - **Dr. Royster will ask Jodie Wakeham to put on the next Health Directors' Meeting agenda a discussion about incorporating health equity into the MAPP process**
    - **See attached** Local Public Health System slide
    - **MHAC members were encouraged to become active in their local health district's MAPP process. OMHPHP will assist MHAC members connecting with local health districts as requested.**
  - For all members to understand MHAC's operating framework, **MHAC members will look at the opening segment of "Unnatural Causes: Is inequality making us sick?" video** (borrowing copies from the OMHPHP if necessary) and be ready to discuss their perspectives at the July 13, 2010 MHAC meeting.
    - Members desiring to borrow a copy of "Unnatural Causes" include Ethlyn McQueen-Gibson, Maria Conley, and William Lee
    - MHAC members that were not present and need a copy of "Unnatural Causes" can contact Susan Triggs at 804-864-7429 or [susan.triggs@vdh.virginia.gov](mailto:susan.triggs@vdh.virginia.gov)
- Healthy People 2020 (HP2020)
  - HP2020 presentations are being planned by Dr. Remley to state agency and legislative leaders. MHAC members have requested that she give the presentation to MHAC to provide members with a solid background on HP2020. This will be the first step in MHAC's effort to elicit local support for HP2020. The presentation will be on the OMHPHP website.
    - Staff will make request to Dr. Remley to give the presentation at the July 13, 2010 MHAC meeting if she is able to attend.
- Infant Mortality Reduction
  - In collaboration with the Health Commissioner's Infant Mortality Work Group, a "next step" is for MHAC members to connect with infant mortality reduction efforts of other agencies to spread the word and collaborate about infant mortality reduction. Detailed information can be found on the Virginia Department of Health website at <http://www.vdh.state.va.us/news/PressReleases/2008/111208InfantMortality.htm> . The goal is for MHAC members to be able to give presentations on infant mortality reduction in their own communities.

**Following are notes and action steps from the discussions on the remainder of the recommendations outlined in the January 12, 2010 Strategic Planning document.**

- Creation of Health Equity awards to recognize organizations/individuals that do an exemplary job of promoting health equity.
  - Members discussed the advantages and disadvantages of recommending this type of award. Discussion was that a health equity awards recommendation must tie to MHAC mission and can relate to sub-committee goals. If this recommendation was

supported, it would be a longer term project and may require a separate committee to fully develop details to submit to the full MHAC for final consideration.

- Health professional pipeline for engaging youngsters and preparing them to become doctors, nurses, and other health professionals.
  - The group agreed that this should be an ongoing process to broaden the diversity of MHAC and medical professionals generally. Members can send recommendations for new MHAC members to the OMHPHP for forwarding to the Health Commissioner any time during the year. Members were reminded of the newly created Health Workforce Development Authority that can be utilized for efforts such as this.
- Recommendation that organizations that receive state funding have reporting accountabilities to the communities they serve.
  - It was pointed out that this falls within the framework of community-based participatory approaches. Information on the use of these approaches can be found on the OMHPHP website at <http://www.vdh.state.va.us/healthpolicy/healthequity/cbpa.htm> . The book, [Trying Hard Is Not Good Enough](#), was also mentioned as a tool for making sure what we are doing is truly benefiting the communities we are serving and that there is always accountability to the community.
  - There was also discussion around the need for funders to be educated about what to require of applicants relative to health inequities and social determinants of health in their proposals and reporting requirements. The final determination was that education needed to be provided to all stakeholders: funders, community members, and program implementers.
    - Ms. Davis recommended that:
      - MHAC send a three-part recommendation to Dr. Remley.
      - Criteria be included in grant procedures that require grant recipients to include strategies to promote health equity.
      - Funding that will assist grantees with sharing information will be included in grant funds, enabling grantees to follow through with this requirement.
    - Although acquiring funding has become more difficult in these economic times, these efforts to require recipients to focus on health equity and reporting are necessary and should be implemented from the inception of program planning.

## 7. Subcommittee Updates

- **Community Engagement Subcommittee** report was given by Dr. Addo-Ayensu.
  - Dr. Addo-Ayensu, the Chair of this subcommittee, reiterated the request that all MHAC members connect with the local health department in their area and ask to participate as a stakeholder on the local health system team in the MAPP process.
  - A letter was received by Jane Cabarrus of this subcommittee from Margaret Park of Virginia Commonwealth University regarding a grant proposal she is submitted that requires community partnership. Ms. Park is requesting that MHAC provide quarterly feedback on a research project that will involve medications for prostate cancer and mice. Members were reminded that, if they wish to support this research effort, they must first make a recommendation to the Health Commissioner. Attendees determined that this was outside of the scope of MHAC's purpose and suggested that Ms. Park contact the Virginia Prostate Cancer Coalition or the Virginia Cancer Plan Action Coalition (CPAC). Ms. Cabarrus stated that she would respond to Ms. Park in accordance with the group's determination.

- New MHAC members were invited to join this subcommittee, and **Edward Scott, William Lee, and Theresa Teekah indicated they would like to become part of this group.**
- **Policy/Legislative Subcommittee** report was given by Claudia Tellez.
  - Ms. Tellez stated that the role of this subcommittee is to review and formulate recommendations to the Health Commissioner.
  - The subcommittee would like to carry forward for this year the request that MHAC and OMHPHP be made part of the Virginia Code. The language from last year's recommendation will be reviewed and brought to the July MHAC meeting as a recommendation. Other recommendations will be included regarding
    - Access to prenatal care
    - Childhood obesity
    - Making a presentation to the Allied Health Committee of the General Assembly, the Legislative Black Caucus, and the Joint Commission on Health Care to educate legislators
  - **ALL PROPOSED RECOMMENDATIONS WILL BE BROUGHT BEFORE THE FULL MHAC AT THE JULY 2010 MHAC MEETING**
  - New MHAC members were invited to join this subcommittee, and **Portia Cole and Maria Conley indicated they would like to become part of this group.**

#### 8. Announcements

- Members were reminded of the statewide obesity conference coming up: **Weight of the State** on May 17-18.
- The Eastern Shore will host **Celebration of Life** on April 28<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. Contact Jane Cabarrus with questions.

#### 9. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

#### 10. Meeting Adjourned

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The NEXT MHAC MEETING is scheduled for:

**Date:** July 13, 2010    **Time:** 11:00 am-2:00 pm

**Location – Bon Secours Richmond, 4121 Cox Road, Suite 110, Richmond, Virginia 23060**

#### Future MHAC Meeting Dates - 2010

October 12, 2010

**Time:** 11:00 am-2:00 pm

December 14, 2010

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

Minutes prepared by: **Susan Triggs**

Minutes reviewed by: **Gloria Addo-Ayensu, MD**