

MHAC
Community Engagement Subcommittee Meeting
June 30, 2009
Telephone Conference Call
3:30 p.m. EST

MHAC Attendees: Gloria Addo-Ayensu (Chair), Gail Jennings, David Simmons

MHAC Absent: Judy Anderson, Jane Cabarrus, Melissa Canaday, Milagritos Flinn

OMHPHP Staff: Susan Triggs, Karla Hutton - Intern

Public Attendees: None

Welcome

/Introductions: Attendees were welcomed by the Chair and introduced themselves

Subcommittee

Deliverables

From 4-14-09: Survey suggestions from Subcommittees and Town Hall Meetings discussion

Survey: The Chair stated that the survey created by the OMHPHP intern was intended for an audience different than the intended audience of the survey that will be sent out by the Community Engagement Subcommittee. As a result, no revisions were done, and the suggestion was made that the initial survey be left “as is” and that it be sent to the intended audience --- VDH personnel.

Discussions are underway with OMHPHP Administrators to determine what the next steps will be in creating a survey that can promote collaboration between MHAC and the MAPP Coordinators throughout VDH on the local health department level. Fairfax Health Department will reconvene their MAPP coalition of more than 80 people in the fall of 2009 and will show the first segment of “Unnatural Causes: Is inequality making us sick” (Unnatural Causes) to help engage the group with moving forward to identifying root causes of inequity. The question was asked about whether the Unnatural Causes presentations were being followed up for changes to policies or approaches. It was reported that the OMHPHP is tracking what is being done by the OMHPHP staff. Attendees were advised that MHAC members are being relied upon to report what they are doing and the results of their efforts at the quarterly MHAC meetings.

Health Equity

Conference: People have already joined and are working with their chosen subcommittee of the Health Equity Conference Planning Committee.

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**Town Hall
Meetings:**

The Chair's opinion is that Town Hall Meetings create an expectation that VDH is there to help/deliver something to them

- The solution to community problems is wrapped in the community and not in what can be delivered by other organizations
- The MAPP environment is important for helping communities identify their strengths and stakeholders
- Collaboration and provision of technical assistance should be the focus of MHAC

Priority issues need to be relevant to communities. There should also be consideration of VDH priorities. Attendees request information or speaker to talk about other priority areas. Susan Triggs referred everyone to the ["2008 Health Equity Report"](#).

**Adjourn
Meeting:**

With no more business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned.

Next Meeting: Week of September 28, 2009.