

**Minority Health Advisory Committee Meeting**  
**July 8, 2008 - 11:00am - 2:00pm**  
**Location - VDH - Richmond, VA - Mezzanine Conference Room**

**Member Attendees:** Baxter Harrington, MS;; Jane G. Cabarrus , Miliagritos L. Flinn, Michael A. Pyles, PhD; Claudia M. Tellez, MD , Lucie Ferguson, PhD, MPH, RN; Gail Jennings, PhD; Tram Nguyen and Rudolph Wilson, PhD

State Health Commissioner Dr. Karen Remley

**Members Absent:** David Simmons, MSN, RN, CNN; Gloria Addo-Ayensu, MD, MPH, Hassan Yousuf, MD; Juan Villalona, MD; Melissa Canaday, and Judy Anderson.

**Staff Attendance:** Dr. Michael Royster, MD,MPH, Karen Reed, MA, and Ellen McCutcheon

**Welcome and Introductions: Baxter Harrington**

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

**Adoption of Agenda - MHAC Members**

The agenda was adopted with changes in the order of presentations. It was noted that David Simmons would not be present therefore no information was available for his sub-committee report.

**Adoption of Minutes from April 8, 2008 meeting - MHAC Members**

The minutes were approved and have been posted to the websites.

**Health Commissioner MHAC Priorities**

**Dr. Karen Remley**

Dr. Remley shared that the priorities of the Administration include: mental health, healthcare workforce development, access to health care, infant mortality and childhood obesity. She further explained how she plans to leverage her position as Commissioner incorporating a focus on addressing inequities with infant mortality in all of her presentations. Further she encouraged the MAHC to identify ways of including a focused message on addressing the causes of infant mortality. Also, MHAC members were encouraged to identify partners to collaborate with and target communication strategies addressing infant mortality.

**MHAC Members Discussion:**

- Ms. Jane Cabarrus described ways in which her organizational affiliations are currently addressing infant health messages to reduce Sudden Infant Death Syndrome. She noted that she would provide specific tools utilized.
- Ms. Lucie Ferguson and Mr. Baxter Harrington spoke about getting the message out to diverse populations, developing social marketing campaigns and suggested partnerships with the National Urban League and the NAACP.
- Dr. Rudolph Wilson suggested the designation of a specific week to address the issues. He further noted possible use of posters in an infant health campaign.

### **Update on MHAC Health Equity Partnerships/Initiatives:**

MHAC members provided updates on their health equity initiatives including incorporating screenings of the PBS series Unnatural Causes - "Is Inequality Making Us Sick?" Committee members identified the following:

#### **Baxter Harrington**

Mr. Harrington promotes health equity initiatives utilizing the Unnatural Causes series at churches. Since April has shown video at two churches and conducted a presentation at a third church. He also continues to advocate for individual personal responsibility with health decisions.

#### **Lucie Ferguson**

Dr. Ferguson promotes health equity initiatives utilizing the Unnatural Causes series. Specifically, it has been utilized during Cultural Diversity Committee meetings in cooperation with the Bon Secours Cross Cultural Office. Also, she shared information with Parrish Nurse Network which includes 186 congregations.

#### **Rudolph Wilson**

Dr. Wilson incorporates health equity initiatives utilizing the Unnatural Causes series and distribution of Unnatural Causes campaign fliers at Norfolk State University and in presentations. He has included assessment measures including pre and post test assessments.

#### **Gail Jennings**

Dr. Jennings increases stakeholder's awareness of health inequities and facilitate discussions through the "Cancer Notes" a newsletter published by the VDH, Comprehensive Cancer Control program. Additionally, articles have highlighted

OMHPHP's focus on health inequities. She continues to promote the initiative with cancer control prevention staff.

Mr. Harrington suggested that this category remain an ongoing MHAC meeting agenda item.

### **Sub-Committee Reports:**

#### **MHAC Fact Sheet:**

- Thursa Crittenden shared drafts of two styles of MHAC Fact Sheet documents that were reviewed by sub-committee members and Dr. Remley. Dr. Remley suggested that both documents could be used depending upon audiences. MHAC members approved utilization of both documents with modifications. Ms. Crittenden will forward revised documents once completed. Ms. Milagritos Flinn agreed to assist in translating the MHAC Fact Sheet into the Spanish language and Ms. Tram Nguyen agreed to assist in translating the document into Asian languages. Ms. Crittenden will provide staff assistance.

#### **Funding Requests:**

- Statewide Health Equity Conference and Town Hall Meetings. Lucie Ferguson shared with the group a draft template for a conference with proposed budget (figures based on a conference that she is currently planning.) Committee members decided to submit a budget request for a conference. Lucie Ferguson was to draft language to be submitted to the Commissioner. Members discussed the need for Town Hall Meetings and agreed to submit a budget request for this year. Lucie Ferguson was to draft language to be submitted to the Commissioner. Ms. Ferguson will submit the documents the week of 7-8-08.

#### **Community Grants - Community Health Equity Initiatives:**

- There was no report available on this topic.

#### **Legislative Recommendations:**

- The sub-committee discussed proposed positions on several health initiatives. Milagritos Flinn drafted the sub-committees recommendations. The committee approved recommendations. Dr. Remley indicated that she would share report with Joe Hilbert, Executive Advisor, to assist with final language/format.

#### **Health Impact Assessment:**

- Dr. Royster explained the purpose and impact of Health Impact Assessments. He explained that VDH was piloting a health impact

assessment of two bills in the upcoming General Assembly session. Further expansion consideration would be made at a later date. MHAC members discussed the desirability to have this assessment as bills currently have a financial impact assessment. MHAC members decided to support this initiative. Ms. Claudia Tellez agreed to draft language of support for Health Impact Assessment.

**Medicaid Eligibility Income Increase**

- o Mr. Reed reported that the OMHPHP received a document from Jill Hankin of the Virginia Poverty Law Center requesting support for Medicaid eligibility income level increase. MHAC members discussed issue as an increase would positively impact minority and disadvantaged populations, the committee members agreed to draft language to the Commissioner to support this request. Baxter Harrington agreed to draft language of support.

**Overview of Minority Advisory Committee Formats – Best Models**

- o Ms. Thursa Crittenden research of committee models and distributed a suggested format for MHAC organizational structure. Members discussed and agreed upon the format with a few revisions.
- o MHAC new organizational structure will consist of the following officers: Chair, Vice –Chair and Secretary.
- o MHAC Sub-committees (ongoing) include: Legislative/Policy and Community Engagement.
- o MHAC Task Committee: Funding
- o (See attachment for full description)
- o Members were asked to identify the capacity in which they are willing to serve on the MHAC.\*
- o Karen Reed will query members to determine their selection by July 15, 2008.
- o Karen Reed will send ballot to members to vote on officers on July 18, 2008
- o MHAC members are to vote and return their ballots to Karen Reed by: July 31, 2008.
- o New officers will begin their role at the October 8, 2008 meeting.

\* MHAC Organizational Structure - July 8, 2008  
Please indicate the capacity you are willing to serve on the MHAC

Member Name	Chair	Vice-chair	Secretary	Sub-com-Community Engagement	Sub-com Policy/Legislative	Other	Member Only

### **Office of Minority Health and Public Health Policy Updates:**

Dr. Michael Royster briefly reported on the following:

- Dr. Royster discussed highlights of the National Office of Minority Health, National Partnership for Action, June 17-19, 2008, meeting. He noted Virginia was well represented including three MHAC members, Dr. Wilson, Dr. Pyles and Ms. Tellez.
- The Annual Health Equity Report to be released in July – this report augments the former annual Minority Health Data Report.
- The Virginia State Rural Health Plan has been developed the link to the website is: <http://www.va-srhp.org/>
- The Health Equity Train-the-Trainer session was held in Richmond, May 20, 2008. Training was well attended and we received positive feedback. Future trainings will be scheduled in the upcoming months. Please visit OMHPHP website for dates and locations.
- A State Agency Health Equity Workgroup proposal is being developed. A status update will be provided at the next meeting.
- A Pilot Health Impact Assessments will occur during 2009 GA session.
- OMHPHP is working with the Area Health Education Center in developing strategic plans. MHAC members were extended an opportunity to support this initiative through participation on the Area Health Education Center's Advisory Committee. Ms. Claudia Tellez agreed to represent MHAC.
- There was discussion regarding MHAC's participation on the Pan Flu Advisory Committee. David Simmons has been regularly attending these meetings. MHAC was initially requested to have two members participate on this committee. Ms. Tram Nguyen volunteered to participate on the Pan Flu Advisory Committee.
- Additional information regarding these initiatives can be obtained by contacting the OMHPHP at 804-864-7435.

### **OMHPHP Staffing Updates: Karen Reed**

Ms. Karen Reed reported that the Division of Health Equity's new CLAS Act Coordinator, Golam Rabbani began in May. Also, the Health Equity Specialist position will be filled, effective July 25, 2008.

## MHAC 2008 Next Step Action Plan - MHAC members

Baxter Harrington identified next committee member's action steps:

- Ms. Reed will communicate with members not present at July 8, 2008 meeting and determine their interest in serving as a MHAC officer or committee member by July 15, 2008.
- Ms. Reed will send ballot to members on July 18, 2008
- MHAC members are to vote and return their ballots to Karen Reed by: July 31, 2008.
- Ms. Reed will notify MHAC members of selection process via email by August 15, 2008.
- New officers will begin their role at the October 8, 2008 meeting.
- MHAC members must respond to Karen Reed via email at: [Karen.Reed@vdh.virginia.gov](mailto:Karen.Reed@vdh.virginia.gov) by July 18, 2008
- Ms. Reed will send ballot to MHAC members to vote on officers. MHAC members must return the ballot to Karen Reed by July 31, 2008.
- MHAC members: Lucie Ferguson and Michael Pyles to draft language for budget recommendations.
- Ms. Flinn will finalize language suggested for budget recommendations.
- Baxter Harrington will draft language in support of increase Medicaid eligibility limits for low income parents.

### Public Comment:

- There was no public comment.

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### The next MHAC meeting is scheduled for:

October 14, 2008

Time: 11:00 am-2:00 pm

Location - Virginia Department of Health, 109 Governor Street, Richmond, VA

### Future MHAC Meeting Dates - 2008

December 9, 2008

Time: 11:00 am-2:00 pm

Questions or special needs - please contact: Karen Reed, Director, Division of Health Equity - 804-864-7427 - [Karen.Reed@vdh.virginia.gov](mailto:Karen.Reed@vdh.virginia.gov)

Minutes prepared by: Ellen McCutcheon

Minutes reviewed by: Baxter Harrington, MHAC Facilitator