

Minority Health Advisory Committee Meeting
Virginia Department of Health
1st floor Conference Room - 109 Governor Street - Richmond, Virginia 23219
July 10, 2007

Member Attendees: Baxter Harrington, MS, David Simmons, MSN, RN, CNN, Lucie Ferguson, PhD, MPD, RN, Thu Nguyen, Gloria Addo-Ayensu M.D., M.P.H., Judy Anderson and Rudolph Wilson, PhD.

Absentees: Paul Puryear, PhD Michael Pyles, PhD, Jane Cabarrus, Annette Holmes and Gail Jennings

OMHPHP Staff: Michael Royster, M.D., M.P.H., Karen E. Reed, Cynthia Beadle and Ellen McCutcheon,

Welcome: Baxter Harrington

Baxter Harrington commenced the meeting by welcoming everyone. Karen Reed introduced Dr. Michael Royster as the new Director of Minority Health and Public Health Policy. Everyone introduced themselves and gave a brief overview of their duties and affiliates.

Adoption of Agenda – Baxter Harrington

The agenda was adopted as presented.

Approval of Minutes from April 10, 2007 – Baxter Harrington

The minutes were approved with minor technical changes.

**Vision of New Director of Minority Health and Public Health Policy
Office of Health Policy/Office of Minority Health – Dr. Michael Royster**

Dr. Royster provided a brief overview of his experience. Dr. Royster was the Director of the Crater Health District in Petersburg for the last five years. Dr. Royster informed the Committee that his vision for the Office of Minority Health and Public Health Policy is to reduce or eliminate health inequities. To do that requires looking at access to health care and health care providers, improving behaviors that impact health and examining the broader social factors that influence and impact health. Dr. Royster provided the Committee with a handout outlining some of the ways that this could be accomplished. Dr. Royster stated that the office has made a budget request to VDH to hire additional staff, including a full time Minority Health Manager and an Epidemiologist.

Committee Actions Items – from last meeting – Baxter Harrington

Reception for new OMHPHP Director:

Committee members questioned if there was a response to their letter to Dr. Stroube regarding a request for a reception to be held to introduce the new director to community leaders. During the course of the meeting Dr. Stroube's office replied by stating that VDH did not have discretionary

funds available for this event, nor could they solicit funds. In addition, no similar entity, such as the Virginia Board of Health has set a precedent regarding this request.

Minority Health Budget Request:

Karen Reed informed the committee that based on the items decided at the last minute with input from MHAC facilitator, a request for \$10,000.00 for a series of Town Hall meetings and \$30,000.00 for a state-wide minority health conference had been submitted to Dr. Stroube for approval. If approved, funds would not be available until July 1, 2008. Ms. Reed informed the group, if the request was forwarded for further consideration, the committee would need to submit a full proposal with an itemized budget for each event. The committee decided that Rudy Wilson will work on this proposal and submit results to the committee by August 15, 2007."

Town Hall Meetings:

The Committee discussed options for funding for sponsoring town hall meetings and other initiatives. Members expressed a need to be productive before finding out if funds would be available in July 2008. Suggestions included looking at other states to determine how they secured funding for their projects, as well as asking different communities to contribute towards this project. Lucie Ferguson volunteered to investigate other resources for town hall meetings.

In an effort to gauge effectiveness of previous town hall meetings, members requested and viewed a copy of previous town hall meetings summary reports.

Minority Health Conference:

The committee discussed having a minority health conference. Suggestions included "piggy backing" with another major event to gain a broader level of exposure. Potential invitees would include the media, critical minority stakeholders and political leaders. Rudy Wilson, Baxter Harrington, Lucie Ferguson and David Simmons volunteered to meet and develop a proposal for a statewide minority conference.

The committee decided to schedule a planning meeting via polycom. This could occur at designated universities, community colleges, public libraries, and local health departments around the state. The meeting would be open to the public. Baxter Harrington will follow-up with OHMPHP staff regarding scheduling meeting and posting meeting date and location..

MEETING TIME CHANGE:

The committee discussed that the scheduled quarterly meeting time was not sufficient to address their needs. Therefore, the committee decided to expand the meeting time by one hour. All future meeting times will be from 11:00am – 2:00pm.

The following items were submitted for the October 09, 2007 agenda:

- Listing of possible health related bills be considered for the 2008 General Assembly - Cynthia Beadle
- Establish meeting dates for 2008 – bring your calendar – Committee members
- Follow-up on assessment of other state offices of minority health – Lucie Ferguson
- OMHPHP - CLAS Act Resources presentation - Fatima Sharif

Public Comment

Michelle Chesser

The 2004 General Assembly, in Senate Joint Resolution 25, directed the Joint Commission on Health Care to study the mental health needs and treatment of young minority adults in Virginia. For the study, they are compiling population demographics and looking at the issues of stigma, cultural competence of care providers, and minority representation in the workforce. The study will be presented to the Commission at the meeting on September 19, 2007. If anyone has any information or data they would like to share or would like to be involved with the study, please feel free to contact Ms. Chesser at mchesser@leg.state.va.us or 804-786-5445.

Next MHAC Meeting Date – 2007

October 9, 2007

11 am – 2 pm.

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If you have questions or need additional information contact:

Cynthia Beadle, Minority Health Specialist 804-864-7429

Cindi.Beadle@vdh.virginia.gov

Minutes prepared by:

Ellen McCutcheon/Cynthia Beadle

Minutes reviewed/submitted by:

Baxter Harrington