

MHAC  
Community Engagement Subcommittee Meeting  
October 2, 2009  
Telephone Conference Call  
3:30 p.m. EST

**MHAC Attendees:** Gloria Addo-Ayensu (Chair), Jane Cabarrus, Milagritos Flinn, David Simmons

**MHAC Absent:** Judy Anderson, Melissa Canaday, Gail Jennings

**OMHPHP and VDH Staff:** Joanne Wakeham, Michael Royster, Susan Triggs

**Public Attendees:** None

**Welcome**

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

**Approval of Minutes:** Minutes of the June 30, 2009 meeting were approved

**MHAC/MAPP Collaboration – Joanne Wakeham:**

Jodie Wakeham discussed with attendees their ideas about infusing a health equity focus into the [Mobilizing Action through Partnerships and Planning](#) (MAPP) process. She provided some history, saying that this has been a two-year process for VDH health districts so far. VDH local health districts engaged in the MAPP process include:

- **Southwest:** New River
- **Central:** Chesterfield, Chickahominy, Crater, Piedmont, Richmond City, Thomas Jefferson
- **North:** Arlington, Rappahannock
- **East:** Hampton, Norfolk, Peninsula, Virginia Beach,

Dr. Wakeham gave an overview of the MAPP tool, explaining that it was created to evolve through phases or assessments which provide many perspectives. The tool was created to engage a number of community players through the Local Public Health System Assessment. By bringing a diverse group of multi-disciplinary stakeholders together, the resources these stakeholders have access to become accessible to the entire community. The reach of each stakeholder is broadened by virtue of their association in such a group with many other stakeholders. This process is also based on the [Ten Essential Public Health Services](#) and includes [National Public Health Performance Standards](#) (NPHPS) evaluation results for the health district. Top priorities for the MAPP program are to strengthen the public health system and identify gaps.

With regard to statewide MAPP planning and strategies:

- No one district has completed their MAPP process
- Data will be subjective to each district
- MAPP is community data driven
- Consumers are involved
  - Thomas Jefferson sent out a consumer survey as a means of gathering data
  - A tool that works to find out what the community thinks works best

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Dr. Gloria Addo-Ayensu provided a review of “**what got us here**” by saying that the Subcommittee began with a discussion about having town hall meetings and community meetings in each member’s focus community. Dr. Addo-Ayensu began sharing with the group early on that the MAPP process lends itself to using a different lens to look at ways to change how we do public health. The Subcommittee wanted to develop a survey tool to help identify ways of engaging communities, build capacity, address root causes, etc. Not wanting to start from scratch, it was thought that MAPP data could jump start the process.

Dr. Wakeham suggested that someone contact the Deputy that works under Dr. Don Stern, Health Director for Richmond City Health District. Dr. Wakeham mentioned that Hampton, Peninsula, and Chesapeake Health Departments used the Planning Council to lead their MAPP process. Alleghany, Roanoke, Thomas Jefferson, Richmond City are all at mid-phase in the development of their MAPP assessments and that this might be a good time to approach them about integrating a health equity perspective into their process. It is important to remember going forward that the goal is not just assessing or changing behaviors but moving into a broader direction that evaluates social determinants of health and health equity.

Dr. Royster asked Dr. Wakeham about her thoughts on what will be most beneficial to help local health departments integrate a health focus into their process. Dr. Wakeham suggested:

- This may be a conversation to have with health directors
- Local Health Districts are in a place to be able to give richer feed back
- Needs to convene a MAPP status meeting, but will have to wait at least a couple of months for more opportune scheduling times
- The expectation is still that the MAPP process be completed

Dr. Addo-Ayensu talked about the usefulness of “Unnatural Causes: Is inequality making us sick?” as a tool for changing paradigms and softening stances toward a more ready acceptance of understanding health from a broader perspective. It “helps organizations see themselves as part of the solution”, which is the goal of MHAC, VDH, and the OMHPHP. Dr. Wakeham said that after influenza season she will schedule another meeting of the districts involved in MAPP and use that as an opportunity for OMHPHP and MHAC representatives to get input from them regarding the best ways to help them incorporate a health equity focus into MAPP. Dr. Royster asked about access to MAPP data for MHAC use. Unfortunately, at this time that process is very complex because the data is entered into a [National Association of City and County Health Officers](#) (NACCHO) database that generates MAPP and NPHPS scores.

### **Sacred Heart Center**

Susan Triggs told the group that she would facilitate discussions at Sacred Heart Center using “Unnatural Causes: Is inequality making us sick?” as a tool. These discussions will take place over the next several months and will provide viewers with an opportunity to discover ways they can use the tool to advance health equity in their communities.

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**Health Equity Conference and Next Steps**

Susan Triggs gave the group an overview of the first ever 2009 Virginia Health Equity Conference. Though the conference was a huge success, conference attendees wanted more. Conference planners recently submitted grant proposals to fund Health Equity mini-grants and wait with great anticipation to see if their proposals will be funded. All MHAC members will be advised of the outcome when it is known.

**Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

**Adjournment**

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

**Next Meeting**

Date to be announced.

DRAFT