

**COMMISSIONER'S
MINORITY HEALTH AND HEALTH EQUITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
April 12, 2011 – 11:00 am – 2:00 pm
Petersburg Health Department
Conference Room
301 Halifax Street, Petersburg, VA 23803**

Members Attending In Person: Tia Campbell, RN, MSN, NCSN; Melissa Canaday; Gary Crum, PhD, MPH; Tonya Davis, MS, MBA; Lucie Ferguson, PhD, MPH, RN; Carl A. Gibson, MD, FACP; Michael Royster, MD, MPH; and Theresa Teekah, BS, MA, CMPH; **Via Polycom:** Gloria Addo-Ayensu, MD, MPH; Sandra Cherry, PhD;

Members Absent: Portia Lynne Cole, PhD, MSW, LCSW; Maria Conley, BSW; Bre-Onna DeLaine; Ethlyn McQueen-Gibson, RN, MSN; Thomas K. Irungu, MD, MPH; William L. Lee, DMin; Tinh duc Phan; Edward A. Scott, PhD; Claudia M. Tellez, MPH; and Hassan Yousuf, MD

Staff Attendance: Susan Triggs, MPH, RN;

VDH Attendance: Maureen Dempsey, MD; Karen Remley, MD, MBA, FAAP

1. Welcome

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

2. Agenda

The agenda was adopted by MHHEAC members

3. Minutes

The December 14, 2010 minutes were approved.

4. Statement of Commissioner

Dr. Karen Remley, State Health Commissioner, told MHHEAC members that OMHHE will report to Dr. Maureen Dempsey, Chief Deputy of Public Health. She stated that this does not diminish the importance of the office but allows for Dr. Royster and his team to be more closely aligned with the rest of the health department for collaboration and funding.

Dr. Remley pointed out to the group that there are small communities in Virginia that do not have access to clean drinking water. She told members about collaboration between Virginia and North Carolina to improve drinking water and sewage systems in small communities. In Virginia, OMHHE, the Office of Environmental Health Services, and the Office of Drinking Water are leading the initiative.

Dr. Remley gave a power point presentation on maternal and child health issues in Virginia. Previously she gave the presentation to the House Health Welfare, and Institutions Committee and the Senate Education and Health Committee in the General Assembly. The presentation focused on infant mortality and the significant racial inequity that is experienced by African American women. She also shared data comparing Virginia with the rest of the nation. She highlighted three initiatives that are priorities for the administration:

- Plan First
- Abstinence Education
- Centering Pregnancy Concept Model

Dr. Remley talked about the process for developing licensure regulations of abortion clinics per Senate Bill 924. The Board of Health has 280 days or until December 31, 2011 to enact the regulations. Dr. Remley shared that during this time period VDH will conduct research on the issue. She shared the timeline as follows:

March – May 2011: Research 22 other states that already have clinic licensure regulations; review regulatory provisions and interview health department staff in those states

May – Aug. 2011: VDH staff prepares draft emergency regulations; draft emergency regulations are reviewed by Commissioner

Sept. 15, 2011: Board of Health meets to receive public comment and consider draft Emergency Regulations. Upon Board's adoption, draft Executive Branch Review Process will begin.

Fall 2011: Executive Branch Review Process (Office of the Attorney General, Department of Planning and Budget, Secretary of Health and Human Resources and Governor)

Dec. 31, 2011: Emergency Regulations signed by Governor, filed with Virginia Registrar of Regulations, and become effective. Emergency Regulations are effective for a maximum of twelve months, but can be extended by the Governor for up to an additional six months.

Dr. Remley suggested that VDH present data on flu vaccine research at an upcoming MHHEAC meeting. She also shared with members her experiences when she attended the "Healthy Baby Begins with You" program, and she talked about the high level of energy among the student participants.

Dr. Remley thanked MHHEAC members for their dedication and willingness to make a difference. She charged members by saying we must "arm ourselves with data."

5. Strategic Planning

Susan Triggs facilitated the strategic planning (SP) implementation process. MHHEAC members were provided with an overview of the outcome of the October and December 2010 meetings and then guided through a brainstorming discussion regarding development of goals, objectives, and a timeline meeting the MHHEAC agenda. Priority Areas taken directly from high scorers from the December 2010 meeting:

1. MAPP and MHHEAC Mission
2. Policy Recommendations
3. Community Outreach/Education
4. Data/Health Impact Assessment (HIA)/Business Case

The current subcommittee structure of the Community Engagement Subcommittee and the Policy/Legislative Subcommittee was evaluated.

Members attending the meeting concluded that Priority Area 1 MAPP and MHHEAC Mission is already part of the focus of the Community Engagement Subcommittee and that this can be a means of subcommittee members joining with whatever their community is doing to engage stakeholders. Members were reminded that, as discussed at previous meetings, they have been asked to contact the Local Health Department in their area and ask to join the MAPP Coalition as a way to get the MHHEAC mission on the local agenda. Melissa Canaday volunteered to become Chair of the Community Engagement Subcommittee, and Theresa Teekah volunteered to be the Vice Chair. Other subcommittee members are listed below.

Priority Area 2 Policy Recommendations was discussed and attendees determined that this area fits into the Policy/Legislative Subcommittee agenda and that this subcommittee should be maintained. A lengthy discussion about the importance of data integration into subcommittee processes followed. Members talked about the fact that data is and should be an integral part of the outcomes for each subcommittee but wondered if it should be a separate subcommittee. A discussion ensued about the depth of data collection/evaluation and where members would get data. Attendees elected to have a separate Data Subcommittee but to make the task of the Policy/Legislative Subcommittee that of framing data so that root causes are highlighted, policies (not just legislative) are assessed for their health impact, and the business case created for constructing carefully planned recommendations to send forward to the Health Commissioner. Dr. Gary Crum volunteered to be the Acting Chair of the Policy/Legislative Subcommittee, and Tonya Davis volunteered to be the Chair of the Data Subcommittee. Members agreed that all subcommittees should support the work of the Policy/Legislative Subcommittee. This means that information collected by the Community Engagement Subcommittee and data gaps identified by the Data

Subcommittee will be used by Policy/Legislative Subcommittee to establish the formulation of recommendations sent forward to the Health Commissioner.

Attendees also agreed that it is important to encourage the use of Health Impact Assessments techniques at both the local and state levels. The goal is to integrate this into Priority Area 1 MAPP and MHHEAC Mission.

Following is the structure of the subcommittees decided on by MHHEAC members.

Community Engagement Subcommittee was closed to additional members. Members that did not attend the meeting were asked to **advise Susan Triggs by Wednesday, April 20, 2011** which subcommittee they prefer, or they will be assigned to one of the two subcommittees based on need.

- **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT (Closed)**
(Engaging communities via the MAPP Local Public Health System Coalition and by way of any other community collaborative entities for the purpose of bringing awareness to social determinants of health and health inequities relevant to that particular community.)
 - Chair: Melissa Canaday
 - Vice Chair: Theresa Teekah
 - Members:
 - Carl Gibson
 - Gloria Addo-Ayensu
 - Saundra Nelson-Cherry
 - Tia Campbell
 - Tonya Davis

- **POLICY/LEGISLATIVE (Open)**
(Evaluating information received from the other two subcommittees, community contacts, and other sources and framing that information to highlight the root causes of health inequities and then formulating a recommendation to be brought to the core MHHEAC body)
 - Chair (Acting): Gary Crum
 - Vice Chair: Claudia Tellez
 - Members:
 - Ethlyn Gibson
 - Lucie Ferguson
 - Gloria Addo-Ayensu

- **DATA (Open)**
(Research available data related to agreed upon priority areas identifying gaps in light of social determinants of health and health inequities and then share findings with other two subcommittees)

- Chair: Tonya Davis
- Vice Chair: Vacant
- Members:
 - Carl Gibson
 - Lucie Ferguson
 - Gloria Addo-Ayensu

As part of the planning discussion, Drs. Royster and Addo-Ayensu challenged MHHEAC members to get involved. Dr. Royster talked about opportunities MHHEAC has to help develop a framework of health in Virginia that considers social determinants of health and promotes health equity for all Virginians. He stated that the work it takes to get this done will be worth it when we begin to see improved health outcomes in communities across the Commonwealth. Dr. Addo-Ayensu reminded members that the reason they have been selected to serve on MHHEAC is because of their connectedness and involvement throughout Virginia. She acknowledged the busy lives we all live and noted that greater engagement beyond just attending quarterly meetings is required to achieve MHHEAC's mission and reframe health in Virginia. Dr. Addo-Ayensu challenged the commitment of members by saying that given the small time commitment required for subcommittee work, members who are unable to engage in the critical work that occurs at the subcommittee level should reconsider their role on MHHEAC. She also urged members to participate in at least two subcommittees.

Members highlighted the fact that the MHHEAC and especially the Data Subcommittee is in need of members that are business system focused. Suggestions were made for recruiting MHHEAC members with this particular paradigm from the business community.

A timeline for moving the SP forward was discussed, and members decided that they want to begin by focusing on one issue. **Action Step:** Over the roughly 90 days until the July 12, 2011 meeting, each member will

- Choose issues to bring for consideration by the larger group
 - Evaluate relevance to your partners
 - Make determination and assess relevance
 - Make issues universal
 - Be strategic and flexible
 - Consider funding
 - Can this issue be used to engage broader stakeholders
 - Transportation
 - Business
 - Faith Community
 - Etc.
- Think about Health Reform
 - Challenges → funding

- Solutions → funding
- Consider relevant social determinants of health

6. Subcommittee Updates

Subcommittees will meet in May to begin planning. Susan Triggs will send a Meeting Wizard to facilitate meeting date confirmation to subcommittee members.

7. OMHHE Updates

Dr. Royster shared updates with MHHEAC members (copy attached).

8. Announcements

Dr. Gibson provided an update on the Healthy Baby Begins with You peer educator program and said that Ethlyn Gibson would give a more detailed report at the July meeting.

9. Public Comment

There were no public comments

10. Meeting Adjourned at 1:55 pm.



The NEXT MHHEAC MEETING is scheduled for:

Date: July 12, 2011

Time: 11:00 am-2:00 pm

Location: TBA

Future MHHEAC Meeting Dates

October 11, 2011

December 13, 2011 (optional)

All meetings take place from 11:00 am-2:00 pm unless otherwise stipulated

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

Minutes prepared by: Susan Triggs, MPH, RN

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