

Attendance: Ana Novais (HEALTH), Bobbi Houllahan (SPNM), Marco Maina (YMCA), Donna Huntley-Newby (RIC), Elizabeth Castellano (HEALTH), Carrie Bridges (HEALTH), Yvette Mendez (NHPRI/Su Salud Project), Betty Simons (IIRI), Betty Bernal (ACA), Helena Friedman, Norma Hardy and Bill Waters (HEALTH).

Not in Attendance: Maria Barros (Homecare and Hospice), Rob Jones, Delia Rodriguez, Patricia Martinez, Dannie Ritchie (Brown), Robin Rodgers (Women & Infants), and Dania Peguero .

I. Call to Order

Donna Huntley-Newby, call the meeting to order. Introductions were conducted.

II. Review of the Minutes

Minutes for March 10, 2005 were approved.

III. Old Business/ Minority Health Advisory Committee Updates

Donna Huntley-Newby talked about the new emergency room at RI Hospital and how it operates. Also Donna would like to know if you come across any complaints about the emergency room.

Ana Novais talked about Dr. Gifford confirmation date and how important is for the members of the advisory to support his confirmation. She also talked about the Minority Health month and

how everything was working until that date.

IV. Minority Health Promotion Center Report

Betty Simons from the International Institute of RI talked about the programs for refugee that they have and how they help them during their first 30 days. They expect the refugee's to be independent after 120 days of arrival or 180 days the later and 1 yr to be completely self-sufficient. The International Institute provide the following services to refugees; vocational English and ESL, community, health and cultural orientation, employment services, case management, job training, financial literacy, health education and health advocacy. Betty also explained the Diabetes rate around African Refugees that the incidence of diabetes is very low among Africans living in tribal groups, but once placed, living in refugee camps or resettled into urban areas, diabetes is much more common.

V. New business:

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Ana suggested that the members do a formal presentation to the MHAC about the community they serve.

VI. Next Meeting

The next meeting for the MHAC is scheduled for Thursday, May 12, 2005 at Genesis Center.