

# **MINORITY HEALTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

## **MEETING MINUTES**

**Nursing Placement, 334 East Avenue, Pawtucket**

**November 26, 2007**

**Present: Maria Barros, Rilwan Feyisitan, Betty Bernal, Debbie Morales, Dannie Ritchie, Maria Nunez, Helena Friedmann, Aleatha Dickerson, Carrie Bridges**

### **Call to Order**

**Aleatha Dickerson called the meeting to order at approximately 9:15 am.**

### **Welcome from Host Agency**

**Maria Barros, RN, BSN welcomed the MHAC to the Pawtucket offices of Nursing Placement. Maria provided an overview of the services Nursing Placement offers as well as the challenges the agency experiences. Nursing Placement provides physical, psychosocial, and needs assessments to clients to help them remain safely in their homes for as long as possible. In addition to home nursing services, Nursing Placement also offers nursing assistant training, hospice services, and interpreting services through its agencies. Three agency concerns raised by Maria are: (1) securing grant funding to provide nursing assistant training courses at no cost, (2) difficulty getting agency referrals from hospitals, and (3) securing funding to support the production of breast and colon cancer educational videos**

**covering prevention, treatment options, and support services.**

## **Review of Minutes**

**Minutes from October 22, 2007 accepted as presented.**

### **I. Sub-committee Breakouts**

**A. Legislative/Policy-** Legislative Sub-committee will meet with Helen Drew on December 17 (date and time to be confirmed) in order to learn about and inform the Department of Health legislative agenda for 2008. Further, Legislative Sub-committee will plan to meet with the Minority Caucus, in addition to inviting them to the MHAC Annual Meeting in January.

**B. Data-** Data committee discussed the lack of a standard way of collecting accurate race, ethnicity, and language data at health care sites. OMH will provide the link to the Department of Health policy for collection and reporting of data by race and ethnicity. MHAC Data Sub-committee will review the existing policy in order to make recommendations for revision and/or dissemination to health care sites.

**C. Membership-** did not meet

**D. Events-** did not meet

**E. Emergency Preparedness/Pandemic Flu-** did not meet

### **II. Old Business / Minority Health Advisory Committee Updates**

#### **A. OMH Update**

**1. MHAC Annual Meeting is scheduled for January 28, 2008. MHAC**

**Co-Chairs and Events Sub-committee may be asked to help plan the meeting with input from the Legislative Sub-committee.**

**2. The Office of Minority Health will be scheduling strategy sessions with the MHAC representatives from the other HHS agencies to jointly plan and support disparities elimination activities.**

**3. Rilwan Feyisitan, Minority Health Promotion Specialist, presented on the Minority Health Promotion Centers' purpose, data collection, services, clients reached, and new RFP. See handouts.**

#### **B. State Partners Updates**

**1. There is a lot of anxiety at state agencies given the recent layoffs. Business is to expected to “return to normal” until after the new year.**

**In the meantime, MHAC members expressed concern over the long-term costs of the lay-offs, the impact on the effected individuals and families, and the demographics of the persons selected for layoff.**

#### **New Business**

**Due to time constraints, this was tabled until a future meeting.**

#### **Open Comments / Discussion**

**Due to time constraints, this was tabled until a future meeting.**

#### **Next Meeting**

**MHAC will not meet in December. The next meeting will be the MHAC Annual Meeting on January 28, 2008.**