

Minority Health Advisory Committee Annual Meeting Minutes

R.I. Department of Administration, Conference Room B

Monday, January 28, 2008

9:00 – 11:00 a.m.

Members Present: Aleatha Dickerson, Yvette Mendez, Maria Barros, Pich Chhoeun, Miguel Sanchez-Hartwein, Deborah Correia Morales, Betty Bernal, Dannie Ritchie

Members Excused Absent: Donna Huntley-Newby

Members Unexcused Absent: Julie Rawlings, Norma Hardy, Janet Anderson

Welcome

Director of Health, David R. Gifford, Executive Director of Health, Ana Novais, and Health Disparities and Access to Care Team Lead, Carrie Bridges, welcomed MHAC members and guests to the annual meeting.

Acknowledgements

Co-Chairs Yvette Mendez and Aleatha Dickerson made acknowledgements on behalf of the MHAC.

Recap of 2007 and Plans for 2008

The following brief presentations were delivered. Contact the OMH for copies of the slides.

State Partnership Grant to Improve Minority Health- Carrie Bridges
Refugee Health Program- Maria-Luisa Vallejo
Minority Health Promotion Program- Rilwan Feyisitan
Minority Health Advisory Committee Priorities- Aleatha Dickerson and Yvette Mendez

Unnatural Causes- Is inequality making us sick?

Carrie Bridges gave a brief introduction to the documentary and then showed approximately 20 minutes of the segment, “Place Matters”. MHAC member Dannie Ritchie facilitated a discussion after the viewing. Participants answered 2 questions as described below.

1) What stood out for you?

Responses: Improving health requires the engagement of multiple sectors, must engage communities in planning and decision-making, federal policies impact communities, housing policies negatively impact minorities, policies, or the lack thereof, directly impact communities, all poor populations are negatively impacted

2) How would you like to see Unnatural Causes used in Rhode Island?

Responses: Educate legislators- community members should communicate this to their legislators, tap financial institutions to give back, re-allocate resources, share the film with housing authorities and ask for their participation, provide a facilitation guide, share the documentary with affluent communities, share the documentary through the R.I. Council of Churches.

Recognition

Carrie Bridges recognized Miguel Sanchez-Hartwein for completing his turn on the MHAC.

Adjournment