

MINORITY HEALTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Woodlawn Community Development Corporation

210 West Avenue, Pawtucket, RI 02860

Monday, March 24, 2008

9:00 – 11:00 am

Members Present: Aleatha Dickerson, Yvette Mendez, Donna Huntley-Newby, Deborah Correia Morales, Dannie Ritchie, Julie Rawlings, Helena Friedmann, Carrie Bridges, Ana Novais, Helen Drew, David Gifford, Rilwan Feyisitan

Members Excused Absent: Maria Barros, Pich Chhoeun, Betty Bernal, Vinnie Velasquez

Members Unexcused Absent: Norma Hardy, Janet Anderson, Maria Sansiveri

Guests: Den Soch

Call to Order

Aleatha Dickerson called the meeting to order.

Welcome from Host Agency

Den Soch, Executive Director of Woodlawn CDC welcomed the group and provided an overview of the services provided by the agency as a Minority Health Promotion Center.

Review of Minutes

January 28, 2008 (Annual Meeting) minutes were reviewed and

accepted with one correction- Julie Rawlings should be recorded as present at the annual meeting.

Legislative Updates & Discussion

Helen Drew provided an overview of HEALTH's participation in the legislative process and the role of advisory committees. Advisory committees are encouraged to provide comment on proposed legislation to the Director of Health. However, advisory committees and/or their members should not provide comment to legislators or the public and describe themselves as representing the Department of Health. Instead, advisory committee members are encouraged to identify themselves as private individuals and express their views; they can acknowledge that they serve on an advisory committee to the Department of Health, but should not claim that their opinions represent the Department.

A spreadsheet listing all of the public health-related bills entered this session was distributed. Helen Drew described a couple of the bills listed as examples of the role of public health in policy-making.

Dannie Ritchie described the framework of the Disparities Legislation introduced by Senator Metts. MHAC discussed the merits and value of the proposed legislation. No advisory opinion was issued.

Old Business / Minority Health Advisory Committee Updates

Carrie Bridges shared that Unnatural Causes will be aired on RI-PBS

May 7, 14, 21, and 28.

Carrie Bridges and Yvette Mendez described their participation in the HRSA All Programs Meeting in Bethesda, Maryland on February 25-28. Carrie reviewed the programmatic and funding priorities of HRSA as described at the meeting, which primarily reflect investments in oral health, nursing, and primary care workforce development.

Carrie Bridges provided a brief update on the New England Regional Minority Health Committee and thanked members for their participation on the Committee. The Call for Abstracts for the 2009 NERMHC Conference is expected to be released in April 2008.

Carrie Bridges distributed the Minority Health Month Calendar of Events. Calendars were mailed to all MHAC members and can be downloaded from the OMH website.

There were no updates from state partners.

New Business

No new business was raised.

Open Comments / Discussion

No additional comments or discussion was raised.

Next Meeting

Meetings are on the 4th Monday of the month from 9:00-11:00 am.

The next regularly scheduled meeting is on Monday, April 28th from 9:00 – 11:00 am at the Genesis Center, 620 Potters Avenue in Providence.