



Rhode Island Department of Health  
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[www.health.ri.gov](http://www.health.ri.gov)

## **MINORITY HEALTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

### **NriAHEC Host Organization**

**October 27, 2008**

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**Members Present:** Aleatha Dickerson, Yvette Mendez, Helena Friedmann, Deborah Perry, Mary Falvey

**Members Excused Absent:** Janet Anderson, Norma Hardy, Debbie Correia Morales Julie Rawlings, Dannie Ritchie

**Members Unexcused Absent:** Vinnie Velazquez, Donna Huntley-Newby, Maria Barros, Maria Sansiveri, Betty Bernal, Den Soch.

**HEALTH Staff Present:** Carrie Bridges, Rilwan Feyisitan, Dr. David Gifford, Helen Drew

**Guests/Presenters:** Gloria Hincapie

### **I. Call to Order**

Aleatha Dickerson

### **II. Welcome from Host Agency**

Yvette Mendez, Executive Director nriAHEC

### **III. Review of Minutes**

September 22, 2008 Meeting- It was noted that Betty Bernal should have been recorded as present. Minutes for the meeting were then approved.

### **IV. Minority Health Advisory Business**

#### **A. OMH State Update:**

- The federal office of Minority Health is hosting a National Leadership conference February 25-27 2009 in DC.
- The current state funding allocation is \$448,108. There is no intention at this time to make any cut to the OMH budget. It was noted that the state revenue conference was going on this week. Early reports were showing a larger than

anticipated budget deficit was being projected. The deficit could impact overall funding to each state agency. There were discussions about what role the advisory may have in supporting the global health budget and infrastructure. It was suggest that HEALTH increasingly show more of the positive activities that are happening in relationship to the budget and people.

- HEALTH is attempting to build capacity to address charity care regulations. A medical consultant will be hired to coordinate response to complaints.
- The Language Access Group has identified one vendor to recommend for shared interpreter assessment services. A draft contract has been developed.
- Also, the webinar that was scheduled for hospital personnel by JCAHO on Sept 29<sup>th</sup> was well received.
- RI Health Literacy Project- Dr. Gifford will be presenting at there up coming meeting. **Health Literacy Past, Present, and Future** Thursday October 30, 2008 8:30-10:00am Miriam Hospital, Hurvits Board Room

### B. State Partner Updates

- Partners discussed the impact of the recent retirements to their agencies. They are seeing increased caseloads. Additionally, supervisors are now covering multiple regions in the state.
- Aleatha reported that the DIREs workshop was a successful. 40 Diabetes Outreach Educators signed up that day. Several vendors supply adaptive equipment was also present.

### C. Community Partner Updates

- AHEC is partnering with St. Joseph's Hospital to conduct a Health Interpreter Training. It is tentative scheduled for November 15, 2008.
- YWCA NRI – Has just finshed work around Breast Cancer Awareness. They are also partnering with URI's Food Nutrition Program (FNEP) to provide services to clients. OMH staff has coordinated the partnership between FNEP and the MHPC for the past 2.5 years. The YWCA is also partnering with the Lymphoma Society around Melanoma therapies and clinical trials. They have formed a welcome back to school training for kid coming back from treatment.
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- Welcome back Center at Dorcus Place- Has developed a program to assist health professionals from another country get re-established into the health care field.

#### **D. Prioritization of MHAC Priorities for 2009**

- Discussion continued around the development of the 2009 priorities. The co-chairs walked the group through the previous meetings discussion. A brief overview of suggestions made at that meeting were given to members not in attendance.
- New concerns were raised about the potential need to address child abuse from the health perspective. An example made was that Land Mark Medical does not have an assessment for abuse of children during ER visits. It was also a belief that in tough economic times stressors are high and partner and child abuse goes up.
- A suggestion was made for Health to develop resource listings to assist people with health and economic needs. Further examination of existing resources should also be explored ie:211 system currently developed.
- There was a lot of desire among the group to spend some time strengthening the work of the advisory around legislation. It was recommended the group dedicate time on next month's agenda for this purpose.

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

- There were no comments offered. The meeting was adjourned.

#### **VI Next Meeting**

Meetings are on the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of the month from 9:00-11:00 am. The next meeting is on Monday, October 27<sup>th</sup>

#### ***Location***

134 Thurbers Ave.  
Providence.

The building sits on the Corner of Thurbers and Eddy Street.

We will meet in conference room in suite 201

There is parking in the lot and the room is on the second floor to the right of the building if you are facing the building in the parking lot.