

Members Present: Aleatha Dickerson, Julie Rawlings, Debbie Correia Morales, Jennifer Chaves, Helena Friedmann, Emma Simmons, Mary Falvey, Deborah Perry, Vinnie Velazquez, Darrell Thorpe

Members Excused Absent: Gloria Hincapie, Yvette Mendez

Members Unexcused Absent: Maria Barros, Maria Sansiveri, Betty Bernal, Janet Anderson, Ammala Douangsavanh

HEALTH Staff Present: Carrie Bridges, Helen Drew, Rilwan Feyisitan, Dr. David Gifford, and Ana Novais

I. Meeting was called to order by: Julie Rawlings, MHAC Co-Chair

II. Welcome from Host Agency:

- Staff from PHA provided an overview of the PHA and MHPC activities. A particular emphasis is being placed on the senior housing developments.**

III. Review of Minutes:

- Minutes were approved without revision**

IV. Emergency Preparedness Update (Health)

- The bulk of the meeting was used to provide the advisory with an update on H1N1. Helen Drew, Associate Director of Health led the group through a newly developed power point presentation. The advisory was asked to provide feedback on the messaging and usability. The goal is to have MHAC members and community leaders have comfortably delivering accurate and appropriate messaging to the communities they serve. It was felt the presentation was very good. Suggestions made included:**

- Reordering select slides.**

- The general public does not understand when to use/not to use antivirals, so please insert a slide with guidance**
- Add language assuring public that the vaccine is prepared the same way seasonal influenza vaccine is prepared to reassure public and parents**
- Request to translate into Russian as well other languages being considered**

V. Hospital Mergers Update (Health)

- HEALTH has reviewed the initial application. The Attorney General's office has not made a final decision. This process requires joint approval from the Department of Health and the AG's Office to move to the next part of the process.**

VI. Legislative Recommendations for subcommittee

- This was tabled due to time constraints**

Co-Chairs:

Aleatha Dickerson

Julie A. Rawlings

Members:

Janet Anderson, PhD

Maria Fatima Barros, RN

Mercedes “Betty” BernalJennifer Chaves

Ammala Douangsavanh

Mary Falvey, RN

Helena Friedmann

Norma Hardy, Med, CHES

Gloria Isabel HincapieYvette Mendez

Deborah Correia Morales

Donna Huntley-Newby, PhD, RN

Deborah Perry

Darrell Thorpe

Maria Sansiveri

Lavinia “Vinnie” Velasquez

VII. Minority Health Advisory Business

_ OMH State Office Updates:

- National OMH Plan of Action (NPA) Update (Health)**
- Rilwan Feyisitan Chief Office of Minority Health provided a brief overview of the NPA. He reviewed the 5 main aims of this work that is developing nationally. The work of the OMH-RI is in alignment with**

the goals of the NPA. MHAC members confirmed that in fact RI has been out in front of much of this work.

- NERMH Conference State Break Out Session Planning (Health & MHAC)

· Rilwan Feyisitan provided an overview of the format the office was considering for this years state breakout session. Much of the first session will help examine what the state is doing in concert with federal initiatives like the NPA and Healthy People 2020. We will also look specifically at how HEALTH is making its investments looking at the social and environmental determinates of health. The second session will be used to start developing a state action plan for the next two years. These sessions have served a great platform to engage new partners and reenergize old ones.

· The MHAC also suggest we use some of this time to highlight some of the accomplishment by OMH and partners since the last conference.