

- **Members Present:** Aleatha Dickerson, Helena Friedmann, Emma Simmons, Darrell Thorpe, Gloria Hincapie,
 - **Members Excused Absent:** Julie Rawlings Gloria Hincapie, Yvette Mendez, Debbie Correia Morales, Deborah Perry, Vinnie Velazquez, Jennifer Chaves, Mary Falvey, Maria Barros, Maria Sansiveri, Janet Anderson
 - **Members Unexcused Absent:** N/A
 - **HEALTH Staff Present:** Carrie Bridges, Helen Drew, and Rilwan Feyisitan
 - **Guest:** Pheomo Witcher(Genesis Center), Rita Sliva (Genesis Center), Erin Cournoyer (for Mary Falvey), Samoutta Men(SEDG)
- I. Meeting was called to order by: Aleatha Dickerson, MHAC Co-Chair.**

II. Welcome from Host Agency:

- Pheomo Witcher provided an overview of services provided by the Genesis Center. She spent time reviewing the (3) main areas they are currently addressing: adult education, job training, and childcare.
- Rita Silvia provided an overview of the Genesis Center MHPC activities. The issue of lack of quality affordable dental care is of particular concerns for clients right now.

III. Review of Minutes:

- Minutes were approved without revision

IV. H1N1 (Health)

- An update on H1N1 was provided. Helen Drew, Associate Director of Health and Carrie Bridges, Team Lead for Health Disparities and Access to Care gave the update. They walked the group through the

departments rational for making prioritizations of groups receiving the H1N1 vaccine. The randomized process for selecting school-based clinic was also discussed.

- Several advisory members commended HEALTH for establishing strict guidelines for physicians on who they could administer the vaccine to by guidelines. They felt this would assure fairness in the process.

V. Minority Health Committee Business

- **_ OMH State Office Updates:**

- Rilwan Feyisitan, Chief Office of Minority Health announced the formal resignations from the advisory of both Betty Bernal and Ammala Douangsavanh. They have been great contributors to the work of health disparity elimination and will be missed.

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- **Co-Chairs:**

- Aleatha Dickerson

- Julie A. Rawlings

- **Members:**

- **Janet Anderson, PhD**
- **Maria Fatima Barros, RN**
- **Jennifer Chaves**
- **Dr. Emma Simmons, MD**
- **Mary Falvey, RN**
- **Helena Friedmann**
- **Norma Hardy, Med, CHES**
- **Gloria Isabel Hincapie- Yvette Mendez**
- **Deborah Correia Morales**
- **Donna Huntley-Newby, PhD, RN**
- **Deborah Perry**
- **Darrell Thorpe**
- **Maria Sansiveri**
- **Lavinia “Vinnie” Velasquez**
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- **OMH will be working on developing a series of Equity Dialogs starting in 2010.**

- **OMH is in the process of finalizing the new 2010 Minority Health Promotion request for proposals (RFP). This funding opportunity will provide funding to community based organizations to address the social and environmental determinates of health.**
- **The advisory also provided some additional feedback about the New England Regional Minority Health Conference. People felt the**

conference was amazing, and they walked away feeling energized to do more. Professional development was good with over 125 CEU applications collected. Some felt we, as a region need to determine a cost benefit analyst for moving our work to an equity framework.

· _ OMH State Partner Updates:

· Aleatha Dickerson, DHS requested information about the newly launched A Guild to Primary Care Services for Rhode Islanders. This is a publication of the RI State Nurses Association. Members in attendance were aware it was recently made available. However, no one present had viewed a copy as of the meeting. OMH staff said they would request copies of the booklet and send it to MHAC members.

· Our DCYF partner member is in the process of obtain another staff member of that agency to replace her on this advisory.

· Our Elderly Affairs partner member is out on extended medical leave. OMH will work to acquire other representations from this agency during her period of recovery.

· Open Comments/ Discussion:

o A member as wanted to inform the group that of the increased usage of social media to reach people. CDC is using text messaging to reach a larger audience. You can text the world HEALTH to 82700 for updates from CDC.