



MINORITY HEALTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Board Meeting Minutes: 29th March 2010
Location: Women and Infants Family Van Host Site

BOARD MEMBERS:

Present: Aleatha Dickerson, Julie Rawlings, Mary Falvey, Jennifer Chaves, Deborah Correia Morales, Gloria Hincapie

Absent: Emma Simmons, Maria Barros, Helena Friedmann

Sabbatical: Yvette Mendez

Unexcused Absent: Darrell Thorpe, Vinnie Velazquez, Deborah Perry, Joseph Diaz,

Excused Absences: Donna Huntley-Newby

OTHERS PRESENT:

Director: Dr. David Gifford

Other: Rilwan Feyisitan (Chief of Minority Health), Carrie Bridges (Team lead), Jenn DeBoer (Minority Health Promotion Specialist), Shane Lloyd (MPH-Brown U. Intern)

Guest: Tiesha Nieves (Lead Safe kids), Anthony Layton (Socio Economic Development Center), Reginald Tucker-Seeley (Dana Faber Hospital), Juan Bellido (Lifespan)

PROCEEDINGS:

- Meeting called to order at 9:05 A.M. by Co-Chair, Julie Rawlings.
- (Last month's) meeting minutes were approved without amendment.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

- Recommends option to engage in community support to legislate drunk driving. DUI legislation recommended breathalyzer in a car or Ignition Interlock.
- Tobacco Legislation: According to GIS Mapping, cigarettes sales are significantly higher in communities with most minorities. Suggest community participation to have strong legislation around sales of cigarettes near schools and minority communities.
- Influenza Vaccine: H1N1 will be a dominant strain in seasonal flu shot in the next coming flu season.
- Rhode Island leads the nation this year with 72% of children receiving the H1N1 flu vaccine.
- H1N1 vaccine in minority communities have been successful when information about the vaccine came from trusted sources, such as leaders in the communities, religious leaders, et cetera. However, vaccine rates were low among almost all minority groups.

SUB-COMMITTEES REPORTS:

EVENT & MEMBERSHIP SUB-COMMITTEE REPORT PROVIDED BY CO-CHAIR, GLORIA HINCIPIE:

- Governing policies of the committee has been amended and ratified as of June 2009.
- Committee has also suggested more representation of GLB/Asians/Native Americans in the sub-committee.
- April is Minority Month: Access to community programs & calendar during Minority Months through DOH Office of Minority Health website.
- On-going discussion around planning for an Advisory Board retreat in either July or August of 2010.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AND PANDEMIC FLU SUB-COMMITTEE REPORT PROVIDED BY CHIEF OF MINORITY HEALTH RILWAN FEYISITAN, JR.:

- Chair of this sub-committee is Deborah Perry.
- Department of Health, Chief of Minority Health, Rilwan Feyisitan has invited the sub-committee members to the Department of Health Internal Work Group for the Special populations in RI.
- The Internal work group is currently looking at several areas including: community continuity of operation plans/special subset of special population/emergency preparedness in diverse groups/special vulnerable population.
- The internal work group is looking to support the Center for Emergency Preparedness and Response (CEPR) to create an annex addressing Emergency Preparedness for Special Population groups.



DATA SUB-COMMITTEE REPORT PROVIDED BY CO-CHAIR, ALEATHA DICKERSON:

- Chair of this sub-committee is Aleatha Dickerson.
- Meeting for this sub-committee is yet to be scheduled.
- Discussion for this sub-committee will center around data collection for Tobacco/Obesity/HIV and backup efforts.
- Training manual for HIV is currently in process; the committee will be informed when the manual is ready.

LEGISLATIVE/ADVOCACY REPORT PROVIDED BY CO-CHAIR, JULIE RAWLINGS:

- Chair of this sub-committee is Julie Rawlings.
- Sub-committee members will be meeting with Helen Drew to craft policy around legislation to reduce health disparities.

NATIONAL PARTNERSHIP FOR ACTION AND RI OFFICE OF MINORITY HEALTH CROSSWALK REPORT PROVIDED BY CHIEF OF MINORITY HEALTH, RILWAN FEYISITAN:

- Rilwan reminded the Board that the presentation and prioritization were not finished due to the extended discussion on the legislative media campaign. This agenda item was continued during this meeting. MHAC Member are asked to send feed back on the crosswalk to Rilwan by April 16th. Members are asked to fully review the crosswalk, provide feedback on what is currently planned, make connections to areas of the plan that need support, and finally prioritize areas 1-5 for this year. Please refer any questions to Rilwan Feyisitan @ Rilwan.Feyisitan@health.ri.gov

OTHER BUSINESS:

- April is Cambodian and Laotian New year. There will be multiple health care screenings on April 10th and 11th at various Temples; report provided by guest attendee Anthony Layton.

- Meeting adjourned at 10:50 A.M.
- Minutes submitted by Minority Health Promotion Specialist, Jenn DeBoer.