

Commission for Health Advocacy and Equity

Meeting Notes

Date: December 18, 2013

Time: 2:00 pm -4:00 pm

Location: R.I Department of Health State Laboratories

“Making strides to address health equity and the elimination of health disparities in Rhode Island”

I) Call to Order

Meeting called to order by Co-Commission Chair, Dr. Tanya Dailey

II) October 16, 2013 Meetings Minutes Approval

Meeting minutes are approved by Commission Members.

III) Comments on Agenda

No additional comments provided.

IV) Welcome New Commission Members

A welcome to Julie Rawlings was extended as she will be the new co-chair. Two committee members have resigned due to work schedules and we will be looking for candidates to sit on the board. Please contact Angela Ankoma if you have a candidate in mind that may be interested. A reminder to please make every effort to attend these meetings because we need a quorum at each meeting in order to proceed. Please note: the meetings will be monthly in 2014.

V) Subcommittee Updates

Legislative Subcommittee

The chair of this committee was not present, so no report was given. This committee is looking for a volunteer to co-chair if you are interested.

Community Engagement Subcommittee

Several documents were distributed for review and approval by the commission. These fact sheets and power point were created to raise awareness of the commission. The goal is outreach to the community to help reach the community's needs. Presentations can be made at any organization to get community input in the commission. If this outreach is successful, we will have community support when issues arise.

The suggestions given on document 1 were:

- Change wording to “let’s work together to address our concerns”
- Add socioeconomic status
- Add CLAS standards on the front (if it works) and a definition on the back
- Move definitions out of alphabetical order and put them in a simpler order that tells a story (Marti will work on this)
- Add phone numbers

- Move the bold parts of the statements to the front of the statement

The suggestions given on document 2 were:

- Add phone numbers
- Move the bold parts of the statements to the front of the statement
- Add socioeconomic status
- Add CLAS on front and a definition on the back

The suggestion for the power point was to add the same information listed above. A suggestion was also made to describe the history of the commission and the fact that the commission is an action-based commission. The subcommittee will make these changes then forward to all group members. A vote was taken to accept these documents with the changes and was approved. The group also discussed the languages that these should be published in- the top three languages in the state/community will be given preference. Ideas were given as to where we can present this information, including Dorcas, Crossroads, faith-based organizations, and CHEW grantees. A reminder that many groups that we may address may need an interpreter. Any other organizations that group members would want to make a presentation at can be forwarded to the subcommittee. The topic of using social media and radio to get the commission's message across was also discussed. A logo for the commission is in the works.

Data Subcommittee Report

The committee met during the month and the goal was to take the wealth of information available and collapse it into manageable parts for the bi-annual report. A thank you to the Providence Plan who helped with the timeline of deliverables and key measures. This plan clearly lays out the role of each subcommittee, HEALTH, and the commission itself. This committee looked at the state's health disparities reports, and then compiled a list of potential outcomes, indicators, and demographics for discussion in Rhode Island. They also looked at other disparity efforts in the state so that work will not be duplicated. The goal for the report will be to:

- Describe the landscape
- Highlight programs
- Present recommendations

The group decided to take a broad landscape of the information presented for this report, as some data might not be available and they may have to narrow their search. The goal is to dig deeper into certain issues in the future. The committee would also like to have one page documents on each topic. The suggestion was given to add air pollution and also to get a representative from RIPTA on the committee.

VI) Rhode Map RI Update

- The goal is to develop a regional plan for sustainable development.
- There is an extended deadline for focus groups and meeting in a box, as community outreach is increasing. If you have any ideas for a group that they can speak at, please contact them.

- Opportunity maps are being drawn, and they will have the first draft by the end of the week.
- There is an effort to integrate health impact assessments into the work of this group.

VII) General Discussions

- If anyone has subcommittee meeting links and information policies for the commission to be aware of, please send to Angela.
- Angela will send an updated email and phone number list to all members, as well as the information as to when subcommittee meetings will be taking place.
- Our sister agency, Department of Environmental Management (DEM) is also having a Brown Bag lunch which may be of interest to Commission members. Barbara Morin, our Ex-Officio from Department of Environmental Management, will be leading the lunch discussion on Wednesday, January 8th, 2014 from 12:00 pm -1:00 pm at DEM Headquarters titled: **Air Quality in Rhode Island, Trends and Disparities: Does where you live affect what you breathe?**

VIII) Action items for Dr. Fine

- The commission will submit a letter regarding an intern for the commission. Deb, Angie, and Gloria will assist with this.
- Legal consult to the by-laws will be addressed
- Ongoing legislative communication and updates to this commission are needed

Next meeting is scheduled for January 15, from 2:00-4:00 PM.