

Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities (MHHD)
MARYLAND PLAN TO ELIMINATE HEALTH DISPARITIES
Committee Meeting Notes



Committee: Identifying Funding Strategies
Date of Meeting: April 13, 2005, 1pm – 3pm
Location: Dept. of Health & Mental Hygiene
201 W. Preston Street
Baltimore, Maryland

□ In Attendance

Committee Members: Patricia Horton, Co-Chair
Michael Preston, Co-Chair
Chris Gibbons, Co-Chair

Jessica Foster
Pastor Greene
Maureen Masarik
Kenneth Pack
Nicole Simone
Abeba Tesfaye

New Members:

Co-Staff: Arlee Gist, MHHD
Nduku Ndumbu, MHHD, Assistant Lead Co-Staff

MHHD Staff: Dr. Carlessia Hussein
Dr. David Mann

Total Attendance: 11

□ Meeting Summary and Key Points

- Dr. Carlessia Hussein reviewed the agenda for the meeting and went through the committee notes from the last meeting. She also discussed Maryland's upcoming Statewide Health Disparities Conference and outlined the theme of the conference. She announced that Dr. Brian Gibbs would be the keynote speaker at the conference.
- After Dr. Hussein's brief remarks the floor was opened for discussing recommendations that had been outlined in the March 9, 2005 committee meeting notes.

Discussion started with the review and revision of recommendations drafted in previous meetings:

Chapter 1: Maryland Needs To Apply Resources To Eliminate Health Disparities

Recommendation: The State of Maryland should support the Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities.

Recommendation: The State of Maryland should allocate funds and otherwise support educational, health care and regulatory institutions in promoting health careers and in offering cultural competency training programs.

Recommendation: Health care facilities and health licensure agencies should remove barriers to the licensure and accreditation of qualified minority health professionals whose training was outside of the United States.

Recommendation: The State of Maryland should allocate funds for data collection, analysis, and reporting on minority groups who are underrepresented in existing epidemiological reports e.g. Native Americans, Asians, and Hispanics.

Recommendation: The state of Maryland should promote the provision of employee health insurance by small businesses.

Recommendation: The Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities should research private funding opportunities e.g., foundations and corporations.

Recommendation: Health care entities, businesses, and educational institutions should utilize internal resources to take actions within their organizations that are designed to eliminate racial and ethnic health disparities.

Chapter 2: Maryland Needs to Develop and Expand its Leadership Base to Support Policy

Recommendation: The Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities should convene an annual leadership forum to promote resource and partnership development among stakeholders committed to eliminating health disparities.

Recommendation: Local leadership from political, business, health care, community based, faith-based, and educational entities should collaborate to enumerate and disseminate the financial and public health benefits of eliminating racial and ethnic health disparities in Maryland.

Chapter 3: Health Disparities Programs, Projects and Initiatives Lack Collaboration

Recommendation: The Office of MHHD should promote collaboration among local health care institutions, local business, local educational institutions and community groups to develop approaches to eliminating racial and ethnic health disparities in specified geographical locations.

Dr. Hussein and Mr. Michael Preston ended the meeting with a reminder about the next meeting and a request for committee members to keep in mind how important it is for them to be present in the final meetings.

FOLLOW-UP

❑ Action Steps

- Next meeting will be on **Wednesday, June 8, 2005 at from 1:00pm – 3:00pm.**

❑ Parking Lot Items – NONE