

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



Committee: Measuring Health Disparities
Date of Meeting: February 18, 2005, 1pm – 3pm
Location: Department of Health & Mental Hygiene
 201 West Preston Street, Room L3
 Baltimore, Maryland 21201

□ In Attendance

Committee Members: Thomas LaVeist, Co-Chair Olivia Carter-Pokras, Co-Chair

Mohamed Atta	Tyler Brannen
David Bush	Johnia Curtis
Yolanda Drake	Angela Echiverri
Nadia Hansel	Chiehwen Ed Hsu
Mary K. Jackson	Julianna Jung
Edward Kraus	Joan Kub
Dwan Little	Rishi Mediratte
David M. Portesi	Richard Skolasky Jr.
Annette Snyder	Hal Sommers
Paul Thuluvath	

New Members:

Last Name	First Name	Title/ Affiliation
Ayd-Simpson	Loretta	Center for Aging Studies, UMBC
Cheanvechai	Vasana	University of Maryland
Hall	Margo	MOTA, CRFP, The MD Center
McNeil	Marianne	University of Maryland
Tolea	Magdalena	DEPM, University of Maryland
Wright	Donna	Wright Associates

Co-Staff: David Mann, Lead David Wolfe

MHHD Staff: Carlessia Hussein Janet Adams

Total Attendance: 30

□ Meeting Summary and Key Points

- Attendee introductions were made.
- The committee participated in a **five-step exercise** to determine the *Measuring Health Disparities Committee* sub-committees:

- (1) Each person was asked to answer the following question on an index card; “What do you consider to be the most important problem that the *Measuring Health Disparities Committee* should address in terms of dealing with Maryland health disparities?”
- (2) The index cards were collected and a team of student researchers from the University of Maryland and Johns Hopkins categorized the cards into three groups based on the committee members’ answers.
- (3) The students presented the three content areas that resulted from this process.
- (4) The committee discussed the proposed content areas and created **three sub-committees**. The sub-committee content areas are:

- a. The collection, analysis and reporting of race and ethnicity information.**
- b. Integration, coordination, and standardization across various data systems.**
- c. Additional information (outcome variables and covariates) to be measured to better understand health disparities.**

- (5) **Committee members in attendance were assigned to sub-committees** based on their responses on the index cards, and sub-committee chairs were identified.

Subcommittee A - The collection, analysis and reporting of race and ethnicity information

Nadia Hansel, Chair

Members:

- Tyler Brannen
- Vasana Cheanvechai
- Johnia Curtis
- Angela Echiverri
- Joan Kub
- Dwan Little

Subcommittee B - Integration, coordination, and standardization across various data systems

David Portesi, Chair

Members:

- Yolanda Drake
- Chiehwen Ed Hsu
- Mary Jackson
- Hal Sommers

Subcommittee C - Additional information to be measured for understanding health disparities

Richard Skolasky, Jr., Chair

Members:

- Mohamed Atta
- Loretta Ayd-Simpson
- David Bush
- Margo Hall
- Julianna Jung
- Ed Krause
- Annette Snyder
- Paul Thuluvath

- The committee addressed other topics including the four **Action Steps (AS)** from January's committee meeting:

AS.1 Discussion of how to expand committee participation and representation

Committee members will continue to utilize the "Invitation to Join" email information provided by MHHD staff. The Invitation includes a synopsis of the Office of MHHD and its goal to develop a state plan for eliminating health disparities, a summary of the 'charge' for each committee, and a registration form for interested persons. Committee suggested that recruitment efforts target faith-based organizations; pharmaceutical companies; educational institutions serving youth; Historically Black Colleges and Universities; the Black Leadership Health Initiative; oral health professionals; private non-profit organizations (such as the American Heart Association, American Diabetes Association National Kidney Foundation), and grass roots community leaders.

AS.2 Discussion of Maryland data systems

MHHD staff presented a preliminary list of Maryland data systems. Co-Chairs asked if members were aware of an existing inventory of Maryland data systems. No members were aware of one. The committee suggested for inclusion in such an inventory: the DHMH State Data Center; data held by the Delmarva Foundation; University of Maryland College Park GIS Department; any county data systems. The committee determined that the issue of a data systems inventory falls under sub-committee (B).

AS.3 Identifying disparities reports that demonstrate best practices for collection and analysis of health disparities data.

Each of the subcommittees should continue to look for recommendations from existing reports that apply to the content area of that subcommittee.

AS.4 Identifying guest speakers with expertise to support committee progress

Committee members and MHHD staff will continue to look for speakers.

- In response to a member’s question, staff reviewed the names and general focus of the other three Maryland Plan to Eliminate Health Disparities committees. Members discussed how the meeting summaries and feedback from other committees could support the progress of the *Measuring Health Disparities Committee*.
- Co-Chairs presented a proposed format for the June 30th report. The format was drafted by MHHD staff and approved by co-chairs. The report outline includes sections for determining problems and developing goals, solutions (recommendations) and strategies in response to the problems. Sub-committees will use the format as a framework for completing their work.
- A very preliminary draft of a list of problems in measuring that the committee may need to address was presented. A revised version (based on input from this meeting) will be distributed electronically to the committee members.

FOLLOW-UP

□ Action Steps

- MHHD staff will resend “Invitation to Join Committees” email to support ongoing committee recruitment
- **Next meeting will be on Friday, March 18, 2005 from 1:00pm – 3:00pm in the L-1 Conference Room at DHMH (201 W. Preston St. Baltimore, MD)**

**Parking is limited around DHMH. Please consider using public transportation.
Be sure to allow sufficient time to find parking if you will be driving to the meeting.**

- Send information and address questions to Dr. David Mann, Committee Lead Staff; (410) 767-4807 or email dmann@dhmh.state.md.us.

- Future meetings:

Friday, April 15, 2005	1:00 pm - 3:00 pm	L3 Conference Room, DHMH*
Friday, May 20, 2005	1:00 pm - 3:00 pm	L3 Conference Room, DHMH*
Friday, June 17, 2005	1:00 pm - 3:00 pm	L3 Conference Room, DHMH*

* 201 W. Preston Street, Baltimore, MD 21201

□ Parking Lot Items – NONE