

# Connecticut Commission on Health Equity

## Executive Committee

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BOARD MEETING  
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2011  
9:30 am  
RM 1B, LOB  
AGENDA

1. **Welcome:** Good Morning everyone. My name is Dr. Marie Spivey and as Chair of this Commission on Health Equity, I would like to welcome you back to the historical halls of this Legislative Office Building to begin our work in earnest for the 2011-2012 year.
2. I'd like to begin this session – first I'd like to ask everyone to silence their cell phones. Next we would like to welcome and introduce to you Dr. Jewel Mullen, Commissioner, DPH to the Commission floor; however, **before we** give Dr. Mullen the opportunity to make any comments she would like to offer, I would like to ask those in attendance to introduce him/herself as a member of this commission.
  - Therefore, would each commissioner please turn on your microphones as each of you identify the community agency, population group, or state department you represent. Please use the button in front of you when you speak in order to ensure the recording of your introduction as well as any comments you would like to offer now and throughout the session.
  - May we now have those commissioners who have called in state your name and what agency or state department you represent.
  - Those seated in the audience, please be sure you have signed your name on the roster; however, I would ask that you also stand and state your name and whom you represent.

New members on the Board of the Commission:

- Welcome Brad Plebani – Statewide Multicultural Health Partnership Initiative.
- Also extend our thanks to Nancy Berger who represented the Partnership in the past.

**My Remarks:**

Before I turn the floor over to Commissioner Mullen I would like to make a few remarks. First I would like to thank everyone for the time and effort they have put into the work of this Commission on Health Equity to date. We held a vigorous strategic planning session in June that Dr. Staggers will comment on shortly, but the candid and thoughtful participation in that proceeding was phenomenal. It gave us the roadmap we needed to move forward in this work.

We are fortunate in CT. to have the wisdom of Governor Malloy and legislators who find it essential to improve the understanding of socioeconomic factors, the lack of health insurance, the social environments, poor housing, racism, individual health risk behaviors, lack of knowledge on the part of many – even most – of our residents on how to even **use** health care services. But it is most important that there is an awareness on the part of our public officials in knowing that there is a significant need to capture more of the cultural understanding and prejudices or biases ( be they blatant or unconscious biases of health care providers) that are faced by our residents on a continual basis. These behaviors interfere with how the health of individuals and families progress. Learning about each other, respecting each other, defining and improving our knowledge about disparities through increased focused data collection, defining and improving access to care for underserved populations; enhancing the cultural competency of the healthcare workforce; and adopting as we have in this state of Connecticut – health equity as a goal for all public health programs is an environment we must continue to envision when we all lay our heads down on our pillows each night. So again thank you for your persistence in this work.... And now as our principal partner in public health in this state, I would like to invite Commissioner Mullen to say a few words.

**Commissioner Mullen..**

- Dr. Mullen has appointed Lisa Davis, Deputy Commissioner, and Leonard Lee, Deputy Commissioner (from Mass. DPH).
- Either of them, or Dr. Mullen herself will be at the Commission meetings from now on – at least for part of the meeting (DPF exec. Staff has their meeting at the same time)
- She has created a collaborative in New Haven on infant mortality – looking at whether or not racism plays a part in that.
- 65% of DPH funding comes from federal funding.
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**Thank you Dr. Mullen. We look forward to your continued participation in this work.**

3. **We do not have the minutes from the last several meetings. Dr. Stagers has been trying to retrieve them electronically.**

4. **New Business**

a) **Committee Reports**

1. Commissioner Cathy Medina - Policy Committee, Co-Chair
2. Commissioner Natasha Pierre - Legislative Committee
3. Commissioner Sharon Mierzwa - Data Committee
4. Commissioner Colleen Gallagher - Resource Development
5. Commissioner Lorraine Carrano - Public Voice Committee (Special thanks to Sylvia Gafford Alexander and James Gaitling for participating in the statewide forums.

**Each Committee report was voted upon to accept without any modifications.**

b) **Report Executive Director**

1. ANNUAL REPORT UPDATE
2. LEGISLATIVE BREAKFAST
3. STRATEGIC PLANNING MEETING

c) **Presentation / Q&A - Lisa Werkmeister Rozas, Ph.D., LCSW & Kathryn Libal, Ph.D., UCONN School of Social Work on Health as a Human Right**

5. **Other Business:**

a) **Greg - 1) Wanted to know why the minutes have not been posted since Nov. 2010; and b) Urged the board to follow the compliance protocol for elections as stated in the Bylaws.**

6. **Next Meeting: November 15, 2011- Legislative Breakfast to launch the objectives of the Annual Report.**

7. **Next Strategic Planning Session: June Strategic Planning Report will be sent out with these September minutes in preparation for the work of the committees prior to our next extended Board meeting. Dr. Stagers will contact you regarding your preference to have an extended board meeting in December (perhaps 12/2, or an extended working meeting during our next scheduled Board meeting on January 17<sup>th</sup>?**

8. **Adjournment 11 a.m.**

**Call-in Information: 1-877-973-7795 / Passcode: 2249150**