



3rd Annual Meeting June 30, 2010

Meeting Notes – Draft

Nancy Berger, Partnership Chair

Welcome & Opening Remarks

Nancy Berger gave an introduction to the 3rd Annual Connecticut Multicultural Health Partnership meeting, emphasizing the opportunities that both participants and the partnership as a whole have to collaborate and grow, while always keeping the mission (to end health disparity) in mind. She also reported that 126 partners registered for the 3rd annual meeting.

Joyce A. Hunter, PhD, Deputy Director, National Center on Minority Health and Health Disparities

Keynote Speaker

Dr. Joyce Hunter recognized the tremendous progress the state of Connecticut has made in recent years, in its efforts to overcome health disparities. Dr. Hunter also emphasized the challenges facing all healthcare providers and policymakers, in the wake of the growing minority populations. She also stated that all organizations, at all levels of government have a collective goal: to improve the health and well being of people throughout the United States and to eliminate health disparities.

Dr. Hunter introduced the structure and purpose of several federal efforts to end health disparities, such as the National Institute of Health (NIH). The NIH dedicated 85% of its budget to investigators. (Dr. Hunter gave the example of the BRIC program, which supported 42 states and over 500 researchers.) The benefits and advancements of that research have to be translated into real health benefits, so the Office of Minority Health was introduced. The OMH, in turn, developed a strategic National Plan for Action, to end health disparities. (Dr. Hunter noted the similarity to Connecticut for developing a partnership, which produced its own plan for action.)

Dr. Hunter illustrated the importance of culturally competent care and the importance of training for all individuals working as health care providers (including all individuals who come into contact with patients). The CLAS Standards are emphasized in providing culturally competent care according to national guidelines (as well as in the Plan for Action developed by the CTMHP).

In addition to cultural competence, Dr. Hunter stressed the importance of partnership and collaboration, which is notably one of the key aspects of the CTMHP. There are many opportunities for collaborative efforts at all levels (local, state and national), including faith-based initiatives, government, non-profit and many more.

In closing, Dr. Hunter reported that the National Center for Minority Health and Health Disparities (NCMHD) has been elevated, by congress, to the institute level. While this is only an additional word to the name, the level of institute signifies not only the commitment of the national government to the cause of ending health disparities, but also the level of priority.

Partnership Committee Presentations

Marilyn Alverio, Committee Chair

Communication and Media Committee: *Faces of Disparity* Project

Communication
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*Faces of
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Project*

Marilyn Alverio commented that the faces of health disparities project:

- Began as commissioned project for the faces of disparities panels from the CT Department of Public Health, Office of Multicultural Health, to put face to racial/ethnic health disparities
- The faces of disparities exhibit evolved into a video
- Goal for video: a brief, focused message, incorporating practitioners and healthcare consumers
- Other partners that provided support to the video project included (US Office of Minority Health, CT DPH, CT Health Foundation, St. Joseph's College, Universal Health Care Foundation of CT)
- We are hoping to expand Faces of Disparity project into other languages
- 26 personal stories were collected; 7 were chosen to be included

How can we use exhibit and video in organizations to further CTMHP goals?

A copy of the video '*Faces of Disparity*' was given to the partners in attendance.

Meredith Ferraro & Michael Pascucilla, Committee Co-Chairs

Language Services Committee: Report on Language Services Available in Local Health Departments and Community Health Centers

Language
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Committee:
Report on
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The goal of this committee is to research and promote language service models to health care organizations and public health agencies

Activities:

- Completed a guide for language services in CT
- Conducted a survey of local health departments to determine language services needs
- Completed a bibliography of language services
- Researched laws/policies

Summary of local health department surveys

- Out of Of 82 health departments, 33 (40%) responded
- 12 out of 33 respondents see clients with limited English language skills on a daily basis
- Spanish constitutes about half of languages other than English spoken
- Language services does not receive much attention, with exception of emergency preparedness
- The most prevalent languages are: Spanish, Chinese, Portuguese, and French Creole
- The most utilized services are: document translation, signs and literature, and interpreters
- Food services and safety are most likely to have language services
- Food service and child health ranked most important for language services
- Biggest obstacle in having adequate language services is funding

Stacey Brown & Karen D'Angelo, Committee Co-Chairs

Awareness & Outreach Committee: *Unnatural Causes*

Stacey and Karen discussed the *Unnatural Causes* video; the goal of which is to enhance public knowledge about health disparities through educational community outreach. The committee hosted six showings of this video at sites including Bridgeport Hospital, Trinity Episcopal Church, UCONN Health Center and New Britain Lunch and Learn. The next steps for this committee are to continue to conduct viewings of the *Unnatural Causes* Report, extending their scope of viewers to grand rounds in hospitals.

Emily Jensen, Project Manager

CMHP Website Launch

The CTMHP website has been launched, located at: www.CTMHP.org
The key areas of the website include: homepage, vision, mission, committees, calendar of events, news, contact information and an orientation for new members.

Catherine Russell, Vice Chair of Planning

Approval of Bylaws

Catherine discussed the contents and the changes in the bylaws. Partners in attendance passed bylaws as presented.

Betsy F. Rosenfeld, JD

Deputy Regional Health Administrator,

US Department of Health and Human Services, Region I (New England),

Office of Public Health and Science

National Plan for Action

Attorney Rosenfeld introduced the National Plan for Action (NPA) and the federal mission and its efforts to improve the health of minority populations (such as those outlined in the Affordable Care Act). She cited history, stating that the Secretary's Report on Black and Minority Health, from 1985, was the first federal recognition of disparity, which is still applicable in present day. The NPA is particularly relevant to federal efforts because it brings together all stakeholders to implement change. Attorney Rosenfeld also noted the similarity in the state of Connecticut in our efforts to develop a partnership and plan with similar central goals: to increase awareness, coordinate research efforts and strengthen leadership.

Attorney Rosenfeld also discussed Regional Boards, which will be created (based on the 10 federal regions) to function as a body of experts to do regional planning and support national efforts, as well as serve as a coordinating, non-government entity that can evaluate efficacy of efforts in each region. Factors to develop Regional Boards include: race, social determinants, and contributions from the private sector.

Next steps for the US Department of Health and Human Services and specifically Region I include the finalization of the NPA (estimated by the end of summer) and the creation of the Regional Boards.

If you would like to be considered for the regional board please contact:

Angela Jimenez, angela.jimenez@ct.gov

Professional Development Committee Training on CLAS Standards

Wendy Jones, M.Ed., MSW, Director, Children & Youth with Special Health Care Needs Project, National Center for Cultural Competence, Georgetown University

Wendy Jones provided CLAS training – Planning and implementing the CLAS (Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services) Standards: What does it take. Wendy's Office (NCCC) provides national leadership and knowledge on cultural and

Wendy's Office (NCCC) provides national leadership and knowledge on cultural and linguistic competency within systems and organizations. This Technical Assistance opportunity was specifically tailored to benefit the CT Multicultural Health Partners who work with the racially and linguistically diverse population.

Partnership Business

Announcement of Incoming Officers

Maritza Rosado, Nomination Committee Chair

- **Chair:** Margaret Steinegger-Keyser, Greater Hartford Interfaith Coalition for Equity and Justice
- **Vice Chair of Planning:** Brad Plebani, Center for Medicare Advocacy, Inc
- **Vice Chair of Communication:** Marilyn Alverio, Ethnic Marketing Solutions
- **Vice Chair of Development:** Lorrie Greenhouse Gardella, Saint Joseph College
- **Secretary:** Meg Hooper, Department of Public Health
- **Treasurer:** Enrique Juncadella, The Hospital of Central Connecticut
- **Member-at-Large:** Stacy Brown, UCONN Health Center
- **Member-at-Large:** Rev. F. Lydell Brown, The Conference of Churches

Announcement Committee Chairs/Co- Chairs

Incoming Partnership Chair, Margaret Steinegger-Keyser

- **Awareness and Outreach Committee Co-Chairs:** Stacey Brown, Community Based Education, Department of Community Medicine, UCONN Health Center *and* Karen D'Angelo, NIH Center for Eliminating Health Disparities Among Latinos, Hispanic Health Council
- **Communication and Media Committee Chair:** Marilyn Alverio, Principal, Ethnic Marketing Solutions
- **Consumer Initiatives Committee Co-Chairs:** Emily Jensen, Eastern CT Area Health Education Center (AHEC) *and* Paloma Dee, National Alliance on Mental Illness – CT (NAMI-CT)
- **Data Surveillance and Evaluation Committee Chair:** Jill Coghlan, Retired- UCONN State Data Center
- **Language Services Committee Co-Chairs:** Annamarie Beaulieu, Connecticut Public Health Association *and* Peggy Gallup, Southern Connecticut State University
- **Professional Development Committee Chair:** Catherine Russell, Eastern CT Area Health Education Center (AHEC)

Nancy Berger, Immediate Past Chair

Closing Remarks

Nancy Berger closed with remarks of praise of the committees' efforts and program developments in such a short time and encouragement for the future.

Resources

- 1) CMHP 2009-2010 Annual Report
- 2) CLAS Standards Brochure