

Report of the Disparities and Equity Advisory Committee
to the
SustiNet Board of Directors
March 10, 2010

We are pleased to report that both co-chairpersons have been selected and presided over the two Committee meetings that have been held. At this point, fourteen individuals are members of the Committee.

The Committee reviewed various definitions of health disparities and adopted the following working definition from the CT Department of Public Health, with one change in parenthesis ---

“Health disparities (and inequities) refer to the differences in disease risk, incidence, prevalence, morbidity, mortality and other adverse conditions, such as unequal access to quality health care, that exist among specific population groups in Connecticut. Population groups may be based on race, ethnicity, age, gender, socioeconomic position, immigration status, sexual minority status, language, disability, homelessness, and geographic area of residence. Specifically, health disparities (and inequities) refer to those avoidable differences in health that result from cumulative social disadvantages.”¹

The Committee agreed that its charge is to develop effective strategies and proposals for CT residents to reduce healthcare disparities among varying cultures, and to maintain continuous communication with other SustiNet Committees and Task Force. Of interest are how the Committees and Task Forces have identified inequities and what guidance can be offered and received

The Committee also agreed that it was important to review data and have a clear understanding of the CT health environment in order to make solid recommendations to the SustiNet Board. Articles have been shared and speakers will be invited to future meetings.

Respectfully Submitted By:

Drs. Rafael Perez-Escamilla and Marie Spivey², Co-chairs,
Disparities and Equity Advisory Committee

Dr. Estela Lopez and Rev. Bonita Grubbs, Board Liaisons

¹Stratton, Hynes and Nepaul. 2007 Issue Brief: Defining Health Disparities, Hartford, CT

²Dr. Marie Spivey should be confirmed as co-chairperson of this Committee