

**New York State Department of Health
Minority Health Council
September 14, 2018 - Meeting Minutes**

Attendees	<p>Council Members: Nilda Soto, Guillermo Chacon, Anthony Pagan, Lenora Reid-Rose, Raul Vazquez; Ngozi Moses, Daniel Carrion</p> <p>NYSDOH OMH-HDP Staff: Harrison Moss, Wilma Alvarado-Little</p> <p>NYSDOH Staff (other): James Tardy, Legal Counsel (via conference phone); Claire Simon, AIDS Institute; Sylvia Pirani, NYSDOH Prevention Agenda Coordinator;</p> <p>Public Participants: Yvette James; Brenda Robinson, CEO of the Black Nurses Coalition and Human Rights Commissioner of the City of Albany; Dionne Durante, Brooklyn Perinatal Network; Monique Tarrant, National Black Nurses Association’s Greater New York City Chapter; Dwayne Roberson, Greater New York Hospital Association; Lawrence Brown, START Recovery and Treatment Centers; Lula Mae Phillips, Cornell Weill Medical Center, Community Engagement and Research;</p>
Topics	Discussion
<p>Nilda Soto, MS, Ed, Chair</p> <p>Call to Order & Introductions</p>	<p>The meeting was convened at 9:20am</p> <p>Ms. Soto introduced herself, welcomed everyone and reminded participants that the meeting is being webcast and therefore attendees need to speak loudly and clearly when introducing themselves. Council members and other participants introduced themselves in person, then those via the conference line.</p> <p>Ms. Soto thanked all and gave an overview of the morning’s agenda. This was followed by acknowledging Dr. Elizabeth Cohn’s departure from the Council and her contributions during time as a member.</p>
Council Business	<p>Ms. Soto started the Council Business discussion by providing a brief recap of the last meeting, held on April 13th. She noted that the bylaws were reviewed and that one of the recommendations was changing the Council’s name from the Minority Health Council to the Health Equity Council. This recommendation was due to some members feeling that the current name was perceived to be negative and the new would be more reflective of the work of the Council. Although required by legislation to meet at a minimum of twice a year attendance remains an issue. The Council is comprised of 14 seats., since there are currently 7 individuals serving as members, the lack of quorum makes it impossible to vote on matters. The bylaws and minutes from the past 4 meetings were tabled due to lack of a quorum.</p> <p>Upon the request of Council’s liaison, Harrison Moss, legal counsel, James Tardy (via conference call), provided the Council with information regarding quorum and the voting process. Mr. Tardy also informed the Council that Chamber and the Senate are aware that there are only currently 7 individuals serving. He hopes names that have been submitted and are currently going through the vetting process will be confirmed in time for upcoming meetings in 2019. There were questions from members regarding the nomination and vetting processes to which both Mr. Moss and Tardy provided answers. The gap analysis was discussed with members agreeing it is important to have representation from other underserved populations and geographic locations throughout the state.</p>

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<p>Identifying Best Practice and Evidence-based NYS Programs Addressing Health Disparities</p>	<p>Discussions took place among the members as to how to define who the priority populations are, where they are located and what needs are not being met or served.</p> <p>Some of the key talking points included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identifying priority populations and geographic locations. • Being mindful of the languages these populations use as their “first language”. • Finding resources that are currently available and in place within these communities that can be built upon. • Engaging individuals/populations who are not necessarily “matched” to those in the healthcare professions of that area. • Identifying the social determinants of health in these areas and what can be done to address them? • Investigating if the providers and activities in these areas reflect and support the needs of their communities? • Identifying which types of activities are working (and not working) to engage the populations targeted? • Learning of key challenges in these communities that can be addressed effectively. <p>Ms. Soto thanked all for their comments and noted most agreed that the programs identified would need to be adapted to be utilized among different populations and within varying financial means and resources. She also noted that an advantage of having a diverse Council is that their perspectives and experiences are different, which lends a homogeneous outlook on the charge on which they are working.</p>
<p>Feedback on Council Submissions</p>	<p>Ms. Soto moved the discussion on to getting member feedback on the three examples submitted thus far. she questioned if members would like all 3 examples moving forward. Mr. Chacon noted that while he is happy with all that were submitted, as a Council, they all need to challenge themselves to ensure that they all bring their own perspectives, not just those members who submitted. In doing so, it would serve as a reminder to our Senate and Assembly that if they see a breakdown in certain New York State populations, they have a responsibility to their constituents to make changes. In fulfilling the Council’s charge, the members (himself included), need to mobilize their communities to ensure that their voices are raised to those who need to hear them.</p>
<p>Evaluation Criteria for Best Practice or Evidence-based Programs and Format of Report</p>	<p>Daniel Carrion suggested developing a questionnaire to use when reaching out to organizations to identify their best practices. Claire Simon, from the NYSDOH’s AIDS Institute recommended using Survey Monkey as an online tool She mentioned this was the mechanism that was used with her staff and the DSRIPs Sylvia Pirani, NYS DOH Prevention Agenda Coordinator, also offered to provide access to Survey Monkey as she has used it in the past as well.</p>

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<p>Agenda Development for November 30th Meeting</p>	<p>Agenda items proposed for consideration included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continued work and discussions on the best practices report • Discussion on the Office of Minority Health & Health Disparities Prevention and funding allocated for the Minority Health Council <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Wilma Alvarado-Little asked that the Council members to think about what their plans and priorities will be for the coming year so to identify funding as appropriate. • Discussion of activities and priority areas for the Council during the upcoming 2019 calendar year • Preliminary dates decided on for 2019 meetings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ February 22 in NYC ○ April 12 in Albany ○ September 13 in NYC ○ December 6 in NYC •
<p>Meeting Recap, Feedback, Action Items and Next Steps</p>	<p>Some action items identified were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By October 15th, each member submits or at least approaches an organization that has not been presented yet in order to increase the geographic locations and populations of the entire state, not just 2 or 3 counties. • An Ad Hoc committee (Nilda Soto, Daniel Carrion, Lenora Reid-Rose) has been established to review the submissions. They will identify times to meet. • In submitting examples, keep in mind • The purpose of the information and its utilization, the resources that will be applied and intended outcomes. • • The Ad hoc committee will develop a questionnaire for Survey Monkey to use as a tool when reaching out to organizations regarding their best practices. • Since the 2019 meeting dates have been selected, members should be prepared to submit travel reimbursement requests to Claire Mone as per OMH HDP MHC travel guidelines that were previously provided to all members. Please contact Claire should you need the guidelines and/or forms resent.
<p>Public Comment</p> <p>All</p>	<p>The Chair opened the floor for public comments.</p> <p>Sylvia Pirani, NYS DOH Prevention Agenda Coordinator, introduced herself and provided an update on the Prevention Agenda, which is also known as the State Public Health Improvement Plan. She acknowledged that several of today’s attendees also attended the Public Health Council meeting, and provided information discussed at that time to participants that were not present for that meeting. She said that the Department is working in tandem with the Office of Mental Health, OASAS, Agriculture and Markets, DEC, and Aging New York State Education to discuss the topics that are impacting the health of New Yorkers and what can and needs to be improved upon. She explained their own use of Survey Monkey and how that tool assisted them in getting stakeholder feedback, allowing them to complete drafting priority-specific action plans for the coming year. They are advocating for increased investments, concentrating on primary and secondary preventions and less on healthcare design and reimbursement; not because that is not important, but because they want to focus on prevention.</p>

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	<p>It is the goal of the Office of Public Health Practice to send out their draft plans prior to the Public Health Council meeting on September 26th. A question was raised by Ngozi Moses as to how the Prevention Agenda relates to influencing policies and resources within the Health Department. Ms. Pirani responded that the Prevention Agenda is broader than just the Health Department. It is reflective of the work currently be done and the challenges where additional support is needed. Ms. Pirani welcomed incorporating the Council’s charge of identifying NYS evidence based and best practices. With that mind, she asked if they could share their draft plans and specific interventions that relate to chronic disease prevention in preparation for an upcoming PHHPC meeting. MHC members understand the timeline involved and discussed the possibility of meeting the submission deadline.</p>
Adjournment	<p>At this point, the Chair asked if anyone participating via phone had questions or comments and then thanked the Council members and other attendees for the engaging conversations. The meeting adjourned at 12:00 pm.</p>

Next Meeting Date Time
November 30, 2018 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Location
Empire State Plaza, Concourse Meeting Room 125, Albany, NY