

**New York State Department of Health
Minority Health Council
March 4, 2022 - Meeting Minutes**

Attendees	<p>Council Members: Nilda Soto, Helen Arteaga-Landaverde, Louis (Freddy) Molano, Dr. Raul Vasquez, Lenora Reid-Rose, Tandra LaGrone, Rev. Diann Holt, Ngozi Moses</p> <p>Partial Attendance: Dr. Daniel Carrión, Mill Etienne, Antonio Pagan, LaRay Brown</p> <p>Absent: Guillermo Chacon</p> <p>NYSDOH OMH-HDP Staff: Wilma Alvarado-Little, Abby Waldow</p> <p>NYSDOH Staff: Jamie Spina and David Spellman (Legal Counsel)</p> <p>Other NYSDOH Staff: Karen Folmsbee</p>
Topics	Discussion
<p>Nilda Soto, MS, Ed, Chair</p> <p>Call to Order & Introductions</p>	<p>The meeting was convened at 10:15 A.M.</p> <p>Ms. Soto introduced herself and asked the Council and members of the public to introduce themselves before speaking. Ms. Soto welcomed Ms. Alvarado-Little from the Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities Prevention. Ms. Soto welcomed the public participants present via Zoom, thanking them for their participation and asking that any suggestions, remarks, or information they wish to share, be held until the public comment period of the agenda.</p>
Council Business	<p>Ms. Soto provided an overview of the agenda. Since there was a quorum, the Council voted on the December 17, 2021 meeting minutes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Freddy Molano made the first motion to approve the minutes and Daniel Carrión made the second motion to approve. • Opposed - None • Approved – D. Carrión, M. Etienne, Rev. Holt, T. LaGrone, H. Arteaga-Landaverde, F. Molano, N. Moses, L. Reid-Rose, R. Vazquez, • Abstain – None
OMH-HDP Updates	<p>Ms. Alvarado-Little provided a status update of the Survey Report. The report has been through 2 internal in-office reviews, in which minor grammatical edits were made, no changes were made to the content. Next step will be executive review.</p> <p>Suggestions for what the next steps are after the report is released to share with the public.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hold Zoom presentations with our communities. • Bring the report back to the organizations to see how we can improve. • Create a part 2 to the report, focusing on lessons learned.

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<p>Council Member Updates</p>	<p>Rev Holt, focusing on maternal health, asked the council if there is updated information on pregnant mothers having more miscarriages or secondary health issues due to not being vaccinated. Her program will be going hybrid and because vaccinations are required to come into the center to receive services, she would like to have the correct public health response to give anyone that gives push back on the subject. Dr. Vazquez suggested reaching out to the Department of Social Services for data. Dr. Etienne suggested to Rev. Holt that she could share with mothers that the American College of Gynecology and the Society of Maternal Fetal Medicine recommends the COVID vaccine for people who are pregnant.</p> <p>Abby shared that there have been new vaccine sites being held in minority areas, and the percentage of fully vaccinated people across New York state has been steadily increasing due to these increased vaccine sites. Efforts continue to support distribution in minority areas (as defined by public health law). Additional events were planned for February and March. Anyone with questions or interest in learning more about these efforts can be directed towards doh_VaccineEquity@health.ny.gov</p> <p>Dr. Etienne shared that the March/April issue of the Westchester magazine has a cover story called <i>Race, Class, and the Pandemic</i>. The story covers information about the health equity efforts in the Hudson Valley to increase the vaccination rates.</p>
<p>Minority Health Council Update</p>	<p>Bylaw update discussion - recommended changes are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In Article 1, Section 1 - Update wording from “may advise” to “advises” (Minority Health Council shall, at the request of the commissioner, consider any matter relating to the preservation and improvement of minority health and may advise the commissioner thereon). • Update the document to be inclusive, incorporate pronouns (i.e., change he to read he/she, him/her/their etc.) • Because the number of council members can fluctuate when voting, update the actual number of council members for a quorum to read <i>the majority of council members</i>. • Add a vice chair to the council <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Vice chair would support the chair with general supervision of the work ○ Represent the council in the chair’s stead ○ Preside over meetings during the chair’s absence ○ If the chairs position has been vacated, the vice chair will serve as acting/presiding chair ○ All members of the council are eligible to serve as vice chair; the nominated member must receive 50 percent or more positive votes from the members present at an official meeting of the council where quorum has been established. • Vote on proposed changes during the June 10, 2022 meeting
<p>Meeting Recap, Feedback, Action Items and Next Steps</p>	<p>Recap, next steps and action items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What to do with the Survey Report once it is released. • Proposed Bylaws changes

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ngozi would like to add COVID and Maternal health to the next agenda. Ngozi and Rev. Holt will provide and update at the June 10th meeting • Lenora and Tandra would like to address public health racism as a public health crisis at a future meeting. • Dr. Molano would like to see a discussion on how to get federal funded grants geared toward health care professionals into more black and brown communities to increase the diversity of the workplace. Find out where the money is going? Who has access to it? • Tandra would be interested in learning more about the Racial Equity Working Group and suggested inviting them to a MHC meeting. <p>Announcements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Soto announced she is resigning as Chair for the Minority Health Council at the conclusion of the meeting. She shared it was her honor and privilege to serve on the council since 2007, 6 years of which she had been Chair. She acknowledged and thanked the Department of Health for supporting the Council so they could carry out initiatives and activities that have been accomplished. • Nilda announced Helen Arteaga-Landaverde will be the presiding Chair
Public Comment and Adjournment	<p>Ms. Soto opened the floor to any public participants in attendance via telecast.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Comments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ To Nilda: Nilda you will be missed. Thank you for your leadership. All the best to you. ○ To Nilda: Thank you for all your energy advocacy and support. Congratulations and best wishes on the next phase of your journey. <p>The meeting adjourned at 1:00 PM.</p>

Next Meeting Date
June 10, 2022

Time
10:00 AM - 1:30 PM

Location
To be determined