

Minority Health Advisory Commission (MHAC)
Meeting Minutes
November 4, 2011

NOTE: These minutes are the summary of the meeting convened by the Minority Health Advisory Commission. The complete and accurate record is the tape recording of the meeting. The meeting was held from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, Building C, Room C1A, Denver, Colorado.

Meeting called to order at 10 a.m.

Introductions were made.

Members Present: Theron Bell (Vice-Chair), Danica Love Brown, Patricia Iwasaki, Dr. Stephen Meeks, Rep. Dan Pabon, Dolores Pitman, Lucio Torres-Florez (Chair), and Dr. Chris Urbina

Absent Members: Leona Abdullah-Allen, Senator Irene Aguilar, Thomas Duran, Rep. Rhonda Fields, and Dr. Guadalupe Salazar

Staff Present: Mauricio Palacio, Rachel Carmen, Kim Phi, Deanna Butler, and Barbara Quintana

Old Business

1. **Review and Approval of the October 7, 2011 Meeting Minutes:** Theron Bell made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted. Dolores Pitman seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.
2. **Reappointment of Commissioners Thomas Duran and Dolores Pitman:** Dr. Chris Urbina said the commission is fortunate and grateful to have Ms. Pitman and Mr. Duran accept reappointment.
3. **Department Strategic Plan Update:** Dr. Urbina reviewed the modified strategic map. Work plans will be developed by all divisions and offices for individual daily activities and show how the first main four priorities on the strategic map will be addressed. Mauricio Palacio talked about a proposal that was put forth to the leadership team which was approved. He stated that there are various internal and external groups, including MHAC, working on health equity and environmental justice that will be brought together to build synergy and alignment, complementing the work of the department. He invited the commissioners to be part of the collaborative to help identify what is the best way for all these groups to continue the work. Dr. Urbina said it is putting the strategic map into action, working together to develop a work plan to promote health equity and environmental justice across the department, using lean as a guiding process to move forward and come up with recommendations how to align and hold people accountable for developing the work plan. He stated that MHAC's leadership is essential.

- 4. Review and Alignment of MHAC Goals to Department Strategic Plan:** Mr. Palacio will report back to the commission about strategies and indicators that are generated from the collaborative meeting of various internal and external groups and findings of the Winnable Battles group so the commission can provide its input from its unique perspective, then that can be transformed into action steps for the MHAC strategic plan.

New Business

- 1. Colorado American Indian Health Council Presentation:** Carol Harvey, Office of the Lieutenant Governor, Executive Secretary, Colorado Commission of Indian Affairs was unable to attend the meeting as scheduled.
- 2. Resolution Adoption by Tobacco Review Committee and CCPD, Dr. Arnold Levinson, former chair of the Tobacco Review Committee:** Dr. Levinson spoke about the adoption of a resolution by the Tobacco and CCPD review committees to support the drafting and introduction of legislation to reinforce the review committees' roles in the process of awarding grants and to require a 2/3 vote of both houses in the state legislature (whether there is a fiscal emergency or not) to alter the process. Senator John Morse will introduce the legislation this coming session. Ms. Iwasaki moved that a resolution of support be drafted to protect the original intent of the A-35 legislation with regard to the allocation and funding of grants coming from that funding source. After discussion, there was not a second to the motion. The motion was tabled until next month's MHAC meeting.
- 3. Health Disparities Grant Program Update:** Barbara Quintana said the first quarter was finished successfully. All quarterly reports were received on time. Year-to-date expenditures and reimbursements are on track. Mr. Palacio said plans to continue on the continuation applications, year two proposals of the current grants will be done. The year-two plans will be reviewed by staff and a list will be given to the commission, with any issues, rather than reviewing year-two plans by the commission. A streamlined plan has been developed by the OHD staff for grant renewals. Theron Bell made a motion to approve the streamlined process for continuation awards, Dan Pabon seconded the motion. The motion passed with one abstention.

Mr. Palacio said the governor released his budget and did not take the Amendment-35 program funds, including the Health Disparities Grant Program, which leaves two options:

- A) Assume the funds will not come back after the legislation, and move forward only with the continuation grants.
- B) Knowing the A-35 funds are still in the department, continue working on the Request for Applications (RFA) and get the money dispersed to the community, while proceeding with the continuation applications. Mr. Palacio said as the talks of aligning with the other A-35 programs proceed, the RFA could be prepared, then wait until the Long Bill is approved by the State Legislature, and release the RFA, delaying contracts. The continuation grants

would still start on July 1. Barbara Quintana said the delay will create time to put together a good alignment to address health disparities in a concerted effort throughout the department. The strategic map and the priorities will help achieve that as they place health equity in a larger context throughout the department. Mr. Torres-Florez made a motion to approve Option B. Mr. Bell seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

4. **Budget for MHAC:** Mr. Palacio and Tracey Clark, fiscal officer for OHD, reviewed the budget for MHAC for the remainder of the fiscal year.
5. **Other Discussion:** Mr. Bell drafted the critical element for increasing and improving diversity of senior management staff for the department. He said if it is put in performance plans of senior management and it is given enough value, it is highly effective. It would require senior managers to create positions designated for upward mobility with proper training and management internships. Rep. Pabon made a motion to approve the criteria for submission to the executive director as a recommendation to submit to the Office of Human Resources. Patricia Iwasaki seconded the motion. A unanimous vote passed the motion.

Meeting adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

Submitted by Rachel Carmen