

**Minority Health Advisory Commission (MHAC)**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
May 6, 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.

**Members Present:** Leona Abdullah-Allen, Theron Bell (MHAC Co-Chair), Danica Love Brown, Thomas Duran (via teleconference), Patricia Iwasaki, (via teleconference), Dr. Stephen Meeks, and Lucio Torres-Florez, and Dr. Chris Urbina

**Absent Members:** Senator Irene Aguilar, Representative Dan Pabon, Rep. Rhonda Fields, Dolores Pitman and Guadalupe Salazar

**Staff Present:** Mauricio Palacio, Rachel Carmen and John Romero Campbell

**Guest Present:** Andrea Poniers, Director, Health Equity, Center for Healthy Living and Chronic Disease Prevention, Prevention Services Division

Meeting called to order at 10 a.m.

Introductions were made and the minutes for the April 1, 2011 meeting were read. Ms. Iwasaki made a motion to approve the minutes. Leona Abdullah-Allen seconded the motion. The motion was passed with a unanimous vote. Theron Bell welcomed Danica Love Brown as a new commissioner. She gave a brief introductory overview of her background and said she is excited to work with the commission.

**Old Business**

1. **Jerry Frangas Recognition:** The commission wanted to present Jerry Frangas with an award for his years of service, however he was unable to be present at the meeting. Mr. Bell said Jerry Frangas was a representative of the House and was appointed by the Speaker of the House at the inception of the commission. He served the commission faithfully and responded when he was called upon by the commission, even when the legislature was in session, he would manage to attend the MHAC meetings. Lucio Torres-Florez noted that Mr. Frangas gave the commissioners insight into the legislative process and was a strong supporter of the commission. Mauricio Palacio commended him for his dedication and support. The award will be mailed to his residence.
2. **Elect New MHAC Chair:** Mr. Bell said the election of a new MHAC chair would be for the remainder of 2011, until there is a re-election in January for a two-year term chair. Patricia Iwasaki nominated Lucio Torres-Florez for MHAC chair. Mr. Torres-Florez accepted the nomination. There was a unanimous vote to elect Lucio Torres-Florez as the MHAC chair until January 2012.

- 3. Vote on Amendment to Bylaws:** There has been discussion whether the executive director or his representative is able to vote on commission issues. Mauricio Palacio and John Romero Campbell met with the legal counsel of the department. According to Robert's Rules of Orders, an ex-officio may vote, however there was a question regarding circumstances that dictate the executive director might vote when it's a recommendation to himself. The bylaws have been amended to read, "The executive director shall not vote on matters meant to be recommendations to the executive director. On all other matters, the executive director as ex officio member may vote." Ms. Iwasaki made a motion to approve the change to the bylaws. Lucio Torres-Florez seconded the motion. The motion was passed with a unanimous vote.
- 4. Update on Health Disparities Grant Program:** Mr. Palacio said there was another reduction to the total amount of funding for the grant program. It was based on the latest legislative counsel revenue forecast for Amendment 35. The total amount available for grants was reduced from \$523,450 to \$496,271 allowing the top six recommendations to be funded. Unfortunately, the Southern Ute Tribe project had to be cut which the commission voted to add in March. He reported that he presented the funding recommendations for the Health Disparities Grant Program to the Board of Health on April 12, and the board accepted the recommendations. Barbara Quintana called every project that applied for a grant to let them know the status of their application. The State House and Senate have approved the Long Bill that has the budget recommendations for the Health Disparities Grant Program. A fiscal state of emergency has not yet been declared to take the funds from Amendment 35.
- 5. Review of Proposed Town Hall and Strategic Planning Agendas:** John Romero Campbell introduced the facilitator, Marcelina Rivera, who was selected to help facilitate the commission through the luncheon with the tribal leaders, the town hall meeting and the strategic planning session. The commission reviewed the agendas. Tom Duran suggested the public service announcements regarding the town hall meeting be sent out as it will be a busy time in May and June.

## **New Business**

- 1. Discuss Diego Osuna Recognition:** Ms. Iwasaki requested some time be set aside at a future meeting to discuss what would be the most appropriate way, if any, to recognize the late Dr. Osuna's passions for the importance of the commission's work with youth, education and eliminating health disparities.
- 2. Other Discussion:** Mr. Palacio said Mr. Bell had requested a proclamation for the Zulema Flores Smith Health Equity award. Mr. Romero Campbell took the language from the criteria for the award and drafted the proclamation. Mr. Palacio read the draft proclamation to the commission which Mr. Romero Campbell requested come from the governor's office. Chris Urbina gave the commission an update on the organizational and structural changes of the department. He said the senior executive staff positions are in the interviewing stage and will be filled by June 30. He spoke about the POSITeam (Process and

Operating Systems Improvement Team), what it is, who it's comprised of and what its purpose is.

- 3. Announcements and Updates:** Mr. Bell distributed Colorado Breast Cancer Resource Directories which are available in English and Spanish. Mr. Romero Campbell said there is a fulfillment center at the department where one can order quantities of various resources. Ms. Love Brown said two Powwows will be happening this month, and she will send informational e-mails.

Meeting adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

Submitted by Rachel Carmen