

**New York State Department of Health  
 Minority Health Council  
 February 22, 2019 - Meeting Minutes**

<b>Attendees</b>	<p><b>Council Members:</b> Nilda Soto, Anthony Pagan, Lenora Reid-Rose, Daniel Carrion, Guillermo Chacon, Ngozi Moses</p> <p><b>NYSDOH OMH-HDP Staff:</b> Wilma Alvarado-Little, Claire Mone</p> <p><b>NYSDOH Staff via conference phone:</b> James Tardy, Legal Counsel</p> <p><b>Other NYSDOH Staff:</b> Claire Simon, AIDS Institute, Danielle Greene, Chief of Staff</p> <p><b>Public Participants:</b> Mitchell Caponi, CHNNYC; Jennifer Irwin, Mount Sinai Health System</p>
<b>Topics</b>	<b>Discussion</b>
<p><b>Nilda Soto, MS, Ed, Chair</b></p> <p><b>Call to Order &amp; Introductions</b></p>	<p><b>The meeting was convened at 10:15 AM.</b></p> <p>Ms. Soto introduced herself, introduced the Associate Commissioner and Director of the Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities Prevention, the Interim Liaison of the MHC, and asked the Council and members of the public to introduce themselves. She welcomed the public participants present and via phone, 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> <p>Ms. Soto then gave an overview of the morning’s agenda.</p>
<b>Council Business</b>	<p>Given the fact that there would be no voting on minutes from previous meetings due to lack of quorum, she stated the Council will discuss the survey responses and what has been received in order to identify best practices in addressing health disparities.</p> <p>Ms. Soto began with giving a brief follow up on the candidates for the NYSDOH Minority Health Council.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Three nominees have been forwarded to the Senate for approval</li> </ul>
<b>Format of Best Practice or Evidence Based Programs Survey</b>	<p>Council members received electronic surveys through Ad-Hoc Committee with the assistance of NYSDOH staff the survey was disseminated via Survey Monkey.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Finding of the surveys             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 31 responses compared to 17 last survey</li> <li>○ Representation for various area of the state</li> <li>○ Different activities and services that are being provided</li> <li>○ Survey remains open</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Guillermo Chacon pointed out that there may be concentration of certain ethnic groups in certain counties and asked if we could look to see if we have any information that reflects what is going on in those counties. Wilma Alvarado-Little responded that the DOH Health Equity reports captured this information and can be found on the DOH website. It was also noted in terms of reaching out to a broader population, they could possible reach out to faith-based organizations as another venue or mechanism to obtain information.</p>

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<p><b>Danielle Greene,          Ph.D., Chief of Staff          NYSDOH</b></p>	<p>Dr. Danielle Greene met with the Council in Dr. Zucker’s stead. She provided the Council with an update for the following priority items for the Department:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Closely monitoring the flu season</li> <li>• Making strong and steady progress on ending the lower Hudson measles outbreak and still tracking it.</li> <li>• The Governor promised in his state of the state that this would be a historic year for health and wellness in New York and has already produced two new pieces of legislation; the first being the Reproductive Health Act and the Comprehensive Contraceptive Coverage Act</li> <li>• There was a record enrollment for high quality health insurance options through the New York State of Health, during the open enrollment period at the end of January. The total enrollment in the market place is now 4.7 million.</li> <li>• Four hundred thirty-five thousand more New Yorkers are covered by the marketplace now than a year ago</li> <li>• Again in 2019 NYS is committed to addressing Social Determinants of Health and Health Equity; which is a key part of the mission of OMHHDP</li> <li>• Commissioner Zucker and Lieutenant Governor Kathy Hochul helped launch and guide the task force on maternal mortality and disparate racial outcomes which met several times in 2018,</li> <li>• Dr. Zucker attended numerous listening sessions across the state with women and families who had been affected by maternal mortality and morbidity</li> <li>• As a result of the listening sessions, the maternal mortality task force has received recommendations that have been included in the Governor’s health agenda for 2019 and include establishing a statewide maternal mortality review board, expanding the community health worker program, creating a data warehouse to provide near real time information on maternal mortality and morbidity</li> <li>• On March 6<sup>th</sup> at Albany Medical Center, Dr. Zucker will be hosting a medical grand round on maternal mortality and morbidity and racial disparities which can be attended in person, via live webcast or archived webcast and CME’s are available.</li> <li>• The Department, in conjunction with OASAS, the Governor’s office, and hospitals across the state are working to increase access to medication assisted treatment for opioid use disorder; particularly working to eliminate insurance barriers to accessing care and aggressively expanding access to buprenorphine by increasing the number of medical professionals to prescribe it.</li> <li>• Throughout the remainder of this winter and into the spring, NYS will be hosting rollout events around the state for eWIC New York states new electronic benefits transfer card</li> <li>• Dr. Zucker is looking forward to celebrating National Minority Health Month in April</li> </ul> <p>Ms. Greene then took questions from attendees:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ngozi Moses, who is a council member and perinatal partner, attended both listening sessions and taskforce meetings. She appreciates the work of the taskforce but thinks ongoing engagement would be beneficial rather than only when a crisis arises. Ms. Greene thanked her for valuable input and feedback</li> <li>• Guillermo Chacon would like to recognize two important developments; Leadership of the governor and our commissioner on elimination of hepatitis C &amp; D as well as the ongoing effort toward the December 2020 ending the AIDS epidemic initiative in NYS. Mr. Chacon thanked Ms. Green for her response.</li> </ul> <p>Ms. Greene was thanked for bringing the Council members up to date on the work of the commissioner’s office in addressing health care and disparities for all New Yorkers.</p>
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<p><b>Evaluation Process for Surveys</b></p>	<p>Discussion: formulate the evaluation criteria. Key points and suggestions made included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What was considered a successful initiative and then the metrics that they use though their assessments</li> <li>• Mapping of the survey includes 20 out of 62 counties</li> <li>• Interesting to hear about Asians and Native American representation</li> <li>• Need to be concerned about all minorities</li> <li>• The issue of diversity is recommendation in terms of the reasons to open at least for another month until March 22<sup>nd</sup></li> <li>• The survey is intended to summarize interventions for minority populations and be shared with the commissioner</li> <li>• There are concerns that Asians and Native American representation may be under reported in the survey</li> <li>• There are concern that survey does not illustrate interventions dealing with health disparities and health equity for under reported minorities and LGBTQ</li> <li>• Recommended individual council members reach out to organization if concerns that survey is not reaching or capturing underrepresented population</li> <li>• The general consensus of the Council is to continue the survey</li> <li>• Have a few more deadlines with the data collection and some smaller deadlines along the way</li> <li>• Recommendation of using Gantt charts as a tool</li> </ul>
<p><b>Agenda Development for 2019 Meetings</b></p>	<p>September 13, 2019</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Council inquired as to whether there were any topics that the Office and/or Commissioner Zucker would like the Council’s input and advisement             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Ms. Alvarado-Little gave the members an overview of current OMH-HDP initiatives/programs for them to consider: such as the Mentorship in Medicine, Latino Health Outreach and the Health Literacy Summit. She suggested they consider areas of interest within these and their communities for future discussions. December 6, 2019.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Dates and Locations for 2020 Council meetings</li> <li>• Agenda Development</li> <li>• Membership and bylaw review</li> </ul>
<p><b>Meeting Recap, Feedback, Action Items and Next Steps</b></p>	<p>Some action items identified were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Council would like to meet in addition to regularly scheduled meetings. Claire will look into whether or not it has to b a public meeting and if different technology would be needed</li> <li>• Extending the survey date- Minority Health Council members will identify contacts within the areas that have not submitted</li> <li>• Review survey report by the week of March 25, 2019</li> </ul>
<p><b>Adjournment</b></p>	<p>The Chair asked if anyone participating via phone had questions or comments; which they did not. She thanked the Council members and other attendees for their participation.</p> <p><b>The meeting adjourned at 12:25 PM.</b></p>

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<b>Next Meeting Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Location</b>
<b>April 12, 2019</b>	<b>9:00 AM – 1:00 PM</b>	<b>Empire State Plaza, Albany, NY</b>
<b>September 13, 2019</b>	<b>9:00 AM - 1:00 PM</b>	<b>90 Church Street, Meeting Room 4C, NYC, NY</b>