# New York State Department of Health
## Minority Health Council
### March 26, 2021 - Meeting Minutes

| Attendees | **Council Members:** Nilda Soto, Dr. Daniel Carrion, Rev. Diane Holt, Dr. Raul Vasquez, Helen Arteaga-Landaverde, Louis (Freddy) Molano, Antonio Pagan, Ngozi Moses  
**Partial Attendance:** Guillermo Chacon, Lenora Reid-Rose, Tandra LaGrone  
**Absent:** LaRay Brown  
**NYSDOH OMH-HDP Staff:** Wilma Alvarado-Little  
**NYSDOH Staff:** Jackie Sheltry, Legal Counsel  
**Other NYSDOH Staff:** Karen Folmsbee |
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Topics</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Nilda Soto, MS, Ed, Chair</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Call to Order &amp; Introductions</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Council Business</strong></td>
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| | • Mr. Chacon made the first motion to approve the minutes and Rev. Diane Holt made the second motion to approve.  
| | • Opposed - None  
| | • Abstain - None |
| **Survey Report Content and Format Discussion** | Ms. Soto begins the discussion by noting recommendations and suggestions from the last council meeting have been submitted to Ms. Arteaga and turns the discussion over to her. Ms. Arteaga reviewed updates made to the report with the council. |
| | Ms. Arteaga updates include:  
| | • suggested grammar changes and fonts were updated  
| | • start and end dates were added |
OMH-HDP Updates
OMH-HDP has provided language access services to all of New York State COVID-19 initiatives and NYS DOH Vaccination sites. These services are provided via in person, virtual relay or telephonic. Services have also been provided to the deaf and hard of hearing communities. OMHHDP supported the Governor’s Vaccine Equity Task Force (VETF) and the VETF Fireside Chats. The Health Equity Report, which uses minor civil division data, will be available after April 1st.

Selection of 2021 Minority Health Council Meetings
Ms. Soto reviewed the remaining 2021 meeting dates as May 21st, September 17th and December 17th. If possible, the September and December meetings may be in-person in New York City. Travel forms were sent to council members on March 26, 2021. Ms. Soto announced that council members, who will travel and request reimbursement, complete and submit travel forms to Karen. At this time, due to the pandemic, meetings will be held virtually.

Agenda Development for Upcoming Meetings
Members discussed the following as potential agenda items for future meetings:
- Continue discussion on the conclusion of the survey report
- General update of the post pandemic plan from the Office of the Commissioner and/or any other health issues the state is looking at
  - What are the projections and how they address to be prepared for those projections?
  - Terms of the impact it will have on the aging NYS aging residents
  - Will it heighten health disparities?

Meeting Recap, Feedback, Action Items and Next Steps
Some action items identified were:
- Finalizing the Draft Survey Report
- Updates of NYS efforts to address COVID-19
- Health Equity Report will be out after April 1, 2021

Adjournment
Ms. Soto opened the floor to any public participants in attendance via telecast.
- No public comments/questions were entered

The meeting adjourned at 1:00 PM.

Next Meeting Date | Time | Location
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May 21, 2021 | 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM | Virtual meeting: [https://www.health.ny.gov/events/webcasts/](https://www.health.ny.gov/events/webcasts/)