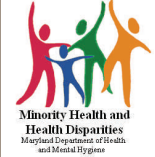




WINTER 2009 NEWSLETTER



Minority Health and Health Disparities Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

Martin O'Malley, Governor

Anthony G. Brown, Lt. Governor

John M. Colmers, Secretary

MHHD VISION & MISSION

Our Vision:

The Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene envisions a state in which health care services are organized and delivered in a manner designed to eliminate health disparities among its ethnic and racial populations, thereby leading the way to a healthy Maryland in the New Millennium.

Our Mission:

In fulfillment of the Department's mission to promote the health of all Maryland citizens, the Health Disparities Initiative shall focus the Department's resources on eliminating health disparities, partner with statewide organizations in developing policies and implementing programs and monitor and report the progress to elected officials and the public. The target ethnic/racial groups shall include African Americans, Hispanic/Latino Americans, Asian Americans and Native Americans.

October 1 Summit—Health Disparities: Impact on Business and Economics

On Wednesday, October 1, 2008 the *Health Disparities: Impact on Business and Economic Summit* took place in the President's Conference Center of the Miller Senate Building in Annapolis. The Summit was sponsored by the Maryland General Assembly; the Health and Government Operations Committee Minority Health Disparities Subcommittee; and the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities. Additional support was provided by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Minority Health, and CareFirst BlueCross BlueShield.



The Summit's purpose was to discuss how health disparities impact the cost and quality of healthcare. Participants were provided with examples of how the costs of health disparities impact business productivity; city, state, and federal budgets; health care delivery systems; minority populations; and the entire population.

Opening remarks were provided by Lt. Governor Anthony G. Brown; Chairman Peter A. Hammen; Speaker of the House Michael E. Busch; and Delegate Shirley Nathan-Pulliam. Dr. Brian D. Smedley of The Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies served as Summit Moderator.

The Government Panel included: Dr. Garth N. Graham, Office of Minority Health, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services; Secretary John M. Colmers, Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene; Secretary Thomas E. Perez, Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation; and Dr.



Robert S. Gold, University of Maryland College Park, School of Public Health. Panelists spoke on how local, state, and federal government can play a role in effective public health systems.

The Business Panel included: Ms. Carmela Coyle, Maryland Hospital Association; Mr. Forest Harper, Pfizer, Inc.; Dr. Thomas A.

LaVeist, Hopkins Center for Health Disparities Solutions, Bloomberg School of Public Health; and Mr. John R. Miller, MidAtlantic Business Group on Health. Panelists discussed the need to address cultural proficiency in the business environment.



The Health

Advocates and Providers

Panel included: Dr. Myron L. Weisfeldt, Johns Hopkins Hospital and School of Medicine; Dr. Trudy Hall, Maryland State National Medical Association and Monumental City Medical Association; Dr. Marcella A. Copes, Coppin State University, Helene Fuld School of Nursing; Mr. William G. Robertson, Adventist HealthCare, Inc.; and Mr. Jay Wolfovsky, Baltimore Medical System. Panelists addressed issues of developing healthcare policies that reflect the population served.



The Workforce

Diversity and Major Payers Panel included: Dr. E. Albert Reece, University of Maryland School of Medicine; Dr. Michael Christopher Gibbons, Johns Hopkins Urban Health Institute, Bloomberg School of Public Health; Ms. Stacey Mink, 1199/

SEIU United Healthcare Workers; and Dr. Jon P. Shematek, CareFirst. Panelists discussed the need for the health care population to become more reflective of the population being cared for.

Closing Remarks and Action

Recommendations were provided by Dr. Claudia R. Baquet, University of Maryland School of Medicine, and Dr. Carlessia A. Hussein, Maryland Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities.

The one-day event in Annapolis was attended by approximately 200 elected officials; leaders from the business community; state and federal government officials; representatives from academic institutions; and health care providers. Selected handouts and presentations from the Summit can be downloaded from

www.mdhealthdisparities.org.

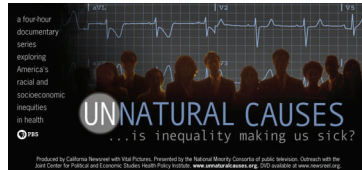


The Maryland Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities has had a very productive and successful year. Some highlights of 2008 are: collaborating with the Maryland General Assembly to host a Health Disparities Summit focusing on business and economics, two presentations at the annual American Public Health Association meeting, panel participation at the NIH Summit on Health Disparities, as well as others. We are looking forward to the new opportunities and partnerships that 2009 will bring. For more information about the MHHD initiative please visit www.mdhealthdisparities.org.

Carlessia A. Hussein

“Unnatural Causes” Viewings—DHMH Attorney General’s Office & Sinai Hospital

The MHHD Team took part in two recent presentations of the documentary *Unnatural Causes...Is Inequality Making us Sick?*. This seven-part series, produced by the California Newsreel, explores the racial and socioeconomic inequalities in health.



In November 2008, MHHD presented the episode “Place Matters” to the DHMH Attorney General’s Office. Dr. Hussein, MHHD Director, provided an introduction to the series and facilitated a follow-up discussion. Participants felt that the film heightened awareness of the impact of socio-economic factors on health and of health conditions in their own communities. Daniel O’Brien, Principal Counsel to DHMH, challenged the attorneys to think about how the law can be used as a tool to affect public health policies.

Additionally, in December 2008, Sinai Hospital held a Special Administrative Grand Rounds on health disparities that included segments of the episode “In Sickness and In Wealth.” Neil Meltzer, President of Sinai Hospital; Warren Green, President and CEO of LifeBridge Health; Del. Shirley Nathan-Pulliam and Dr. Olivia Carter-Pokras provided remarks. Dr. Hussein offered an introduction about the series. Attendees viewed the segments and engaged in small group discussions. Attendees were challenged to raise awareness about health disparities and social conditions that impact health status.

For more information on the “Unnatural Causes” series, including DVD ordering information, visit www.unnaturalcauses.org.

The National Partnership for Action to End Health Disparities



The National Partnership for Action to End Health Disparities (NPA), organized by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Minority Health is intended to mobilize and connect individuals and organizations across the country to create quality health outcomes for all people.

MHHD Staff attended an NPA Regional Meeting that took place in King of Prussia, PA in June of 2008. Additionally, MHHD Staff will be attending the NPA National Leadership Summit taking place at the National Harbor in Maryland, February 25-27, 2009.

For more information on NPA visit www.omhrc.gov/npa/.

New Publications/Resources

Evaluating the Economic Causes and Consequences of Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities (November 2008)



This issue brief, published by the American Public Health Association (APHA) and authored by Dr. Kristen Suthers, examines the economic costs of racial and ethnic health disparities at the individual and societal level. The publication can be downloaded from the APHA Website at www.apha.org.

Health Disparities Summit Materials (2008)



Selected presentations and handout materials from the October 1, 2008 Summit have been posted to the MHHD Website. To access this material, visit www.mdhealthdisparities.org.

Readings in Global Health (2008)



This book, published by the American Public Health Association (Editor: Dr. Omar A. Kahn), gathers comprehensive, cross-disciplinary research and commentary on a broad range of global health topics including HIV/AIDS, tobacco, family health, vaccines, health disparities, and infectious disease. The collection of papers, originally published in the American Journal of Public Health, reaches across subject-specific boundaries and geographic boundaries. This book can be purchased from the APHA bookstore online at www.apha.org.



MHHD Team
October 2008

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Editor: Kimberly Hiner, MHHD Information Specialist