

**New York State Department of Health
Minority Health Council
December 17, 2021 - Meeting Minutes**

Attendees	<p>Council Members: Nilda Soto, Helen Arteaga-Landaverde, Louis (Freddy) Molano, Dr. Daniel Carrión, Mill Etienne, Dr. Raul Vasquez, Lenora Reid-Rose, Antonio Pagan, Tandra LaGrone</p> <p>Partial Attendance: Guillermo Chacon</p> <p>Absent: LaRay Brown, Rev. Diann, Holt, Ngozi Moses</p> <p>NYSDOH OMH-HDP Staff: Wilma Alvarado-Little, Abby Waldow</p> <p>NYSDOH Staff: Dr. Mary Bassett, Commissioner; David Spellman, Legal Counsel</p> <p>Other NYSDOH Staff: Karen Folmsbee</p>
Topics	Discussion
<p>Nilda Soto, MS, Ed, Chair</p> <p>Call to Order & Introductions</p>	<p>The meeting was convened at 9:30 AM.</p> <p>Ms. Soto introduced herself and asked the Council and members of the public to introduce themselves before speaking. Ms. Soto welcomed Ms. Alvarado-Little from the Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities Prevention. Ms. Soto welcomed the public participants present via Zoom, 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>Commissioner Bassett introduced herself and thanked the chair and members for the important work that is being done by the council. She mentioned that health disparities, equity and access are key items for her. she noted that during her tenure she wants to ensure people have access to resources for a healthy life. She spoke of the challenges created by the Delta and Omicron variants which are spreading in populations around the world at the highest rate seen since the pandemic began.</p>
Council Business	<p>Ms. Soto provided an overview of the agenda. Since there was a quorum, the Council voted on the September 21, 2021 meeting minutes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Freddy Molano made the first motion to approve the minutes and Tandra LaGrone made the second motion to approve. • Opposed - None • Approved – D. Carrión, T. LaGrone, H. Arteaga-Landaverde, F. Molano, A. Pagan, L. Reid-Rose, R. Vazquez, M. Etienne • Abstain – None
OMH-HDP Updates	<p>Ms. Alvarado-Little provided a status overview of the Survey Report and what the next steps are in having it reviewed and approved at the DOH level.</p>
Minority Health Council Update	<p>Topic: Agenda development for 2022.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Add maternal health. • Have a DOH representative give a presentation on COVID-19. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ What is the strategy beyond vaccinations? ○ At the state level, what is the role of rapid testing?

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ What strategies are being employed and how to scale vaccinations up? ○ Develop an ad hoc committee to ○ Discuss and outline a loan forgiveness program. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ms. Alvarado-Little shared OMH-HDP’s experience working with their mentorship and medicine program and offered to provide additional information about this program. ○ G. Chacon volunteered to draft a resolution and define how important the council is to advise the Commissioner and the entire State of New York to embrace and to join forces to dismantle institutional racism in our state. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <p>Ms. Soto noted there will follow up to see if it's a working group ad hoc, what the council is to do if it falls under the public open meeting law.</p> <p>Bylaws Discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Edit language. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Remove weak language ○ Edit pronouns ○ Identify possible outdated language ● M. Etienne offered to review the bylaws; members can send recommendations to his attention. <p>1115 Waiver Discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Ms. Soto provided an overview of the 1115 Waiver. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The state is requesting \$17 billion over 5 years to enact a new 1115 Waiver demonstration that addresses health disparities and systematic health care delivery issues that have been both highlighted and intensified by COVID 19. ○ The four goals identified are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Health Equity-Focused System Redesign ▪ Supporting housing ▪ Prepare for future pandemics ▪ Digital Health and Telehealth ● Ms. Soto encouraged the council to keep an eye out for when if/when the waiver is approved.
<p>Council Member Updates</p>	<p>Daniel Carrion shared that effective January 1, 2022 he will be an Assistant Professor at the Yale School of Public Health</p> <p>Antonio Pagan shared that towards the end of September 2021, the current Mayor announced the Pandemic Response Institute (PRI) and the 20 million dollars has been allocated for the creation and the development of this PRI. Columbia University and the School of Public Health at Columbia, as well as the CUNY School of Public Health are the leading partners in this project. A. Pagan works at Columbia World Projects, which is under the direction of Wafaa El-Sadr, who is leading the PRI effort. The PRI will serve as sort of the city's anchor to make sure that they are prepared for any future public health emergency.</p> <p>Mill Etienne shared that the New York State Neurological Society had their annual meeting in November. The board decided that each speaker on the agenda, regardless of the topic they were speaking about, would incorporate at least a few minutes of their speech, to addressing health inequities, health disparities for that particular disease state, so that members could be up to speed. The board looked at the selection of speakers to</p>

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	<p>make sure they included gender equity, racial, ethnic, a diverse group of panelists, people speaking, so that people are hearing voices from different people and not just a more common voice that people tend to hear at scientific meetings.</p> <p>Wilma Alvarado-Little applauded the work that some of the Minority Health Council members have been doing in response to the request for faith-based initiatives and looking at faith-based organizations to support the distribution of the vaccine and booster efforts. They were able to work closely with Rev. Holt on two events where amazing work was done. Ms. Alvarado-Little also thanked Dr. Vasquez for the support he provided at the vaccine events. OMH-HDP was able to identify and provide funding to support these organizations and plans to continue with these efforts. OMH-HDP has identified a specific vaccine email address that people are encouraged to reach out to if they are interested in doing a pop-up site or a vaccination site or holding a town hall meeting. In addition, OMH-HDP is working on the development a health equity plan.</p>
<p>Meeting Recap, Feedback, Action Items and Next Steps</p>	<p>Items discussed were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commissioner Bassett addressed the council and commended the council for the work it is doing. • Recap on the Survey Report. Please note that if there are requests for further clarifications, questions, comments, information that the council will need to do it in a timely manner, so that it can continue to move through the review/approval process. • Topics in 2022: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Keep COVID-19 discussions on the table. ○ Look at trying to get better outcomes in terms of health delivery, who is represented in the health workforce and how can we look at or encourage more training. • Discussed an ad hoc subcommittee. • Reviewed the bylaws. It was suggested to have periodic review of them. • Recap on the 1115 Waiver. • 2022 Meeting dates/times. Locations to be determined. Council members agreed to the new proposed start time. Meetings will now run from 10:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ March 4, 2022 ○ June 10, 2022 ○ September 16, 2022 ○ December 9, 2022
<p>Public Comment and Adjournment</p>	<p>Ms. Soto opened the floor to any public participants in attendance via telecast.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Comments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ As a nursing student pursuing a career as a nurse practitioner, I can corroborate the idea that getting through medical school is incredibly difficult financially. I saved for many years to give myself a cushion to make it through nursing school and even then, face significant financial challenges. To incentivize students from Black and Latino neighborhoods such as myself, there has to be more financial programs and help in place to assist facilitate the pursuance of further education. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Council Chair, Ms. Soto mentioned a loan repayment incentive for physicians to facilitate relationships, relationship building within a given community. I was wondering if the council had any information on similar programs for nurses or nurse practitioners. ▪ Council Chair, Ms. Soto asked the council if they have come across any support for people, whether it's a loan repayment at the end or during.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Council member, M. Etienne suggested exploring government programs like the Public Health Service, various branches of the military, Air Reserve Corps usually get repayments, which can apply to various health professions. ▪ Council member, F. Molano added sometimes there are academic institutions who will be happy to assist a group of residents for a year. ○ I commend all members of this board for addressing the issues of racial advisory and not shying away from their very real clear facts that racism is in fact a public health crisis. We need to have these conversations honestly out in the open. ○ I would like to congratulate the members of Minority Health Council on the proposed work to be done in 2022. Also thanking everyone for the work done during 2021. <p>The meeting adjourned at 12:50 PM.</p>
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Next Meeting Date
March 4, 2022

Time
10:00 AM - 1:30 PM

Location
To be determined