

**New York State Department of Health
Minority Health Council
May 21, 2021 - Meeting Minutes**

Attendees	<p>Council Members: Nilda Soto, Louis (Freddy) Molano, Antonio Pagan, Ngozi Moses, Guillermo Chacon, Dr. Daniel Carrion,</p> <p>Partial Attendance: Dr. Raul Vasquez, Helen Arteaga-Landaverde,</p> <p>Absent: LaRay Brown, Rev. Diane Holt, Tandra LaGrone, Lenora Reid-Rose</p> <p>NYSDOH OMH-HDP Staff: Wilma Alvarado-Little</p> <p>NYSDOH Staff: Jackie Sheltry, 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>Council Business</p>	<p>Ms. Soto welcomed the members and provided an overview of the agenda, a summary of the March 26, 2021 meeting and the discussion. Since there was a quorum, the Council voted on the March 26, 2021 meeting minutes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Antonio Pagan made the first motion to approve the minutes and Guillermo Chacon made the second motion to approve. • Opposed - None • Approve – N. Soto, D. Carrion, H. Arteaga-Landaverde, F. Molano, R. Vazquez, L. Molano, N. Moses • Abstain - None
<p>Survey Report Content and Format Discussion</p>	<p>Ms. Soto turns the discussion over to Ms. Arteaga. Ms. Arteaga reviewed and clarified sections (in green) of the draft report with the council.</p> <p>Ms. Arteaga’s review included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Clarify if the survey respondents were for profit or nonprofit organizations ○ Survey dates needed (start and end dates). ○ Community Based Health Work (#2) – discussion to include a definition of a Community Health Worker (CHW) ○ Access to Data and Digital Services (#4)– discussion regarding the title and contents. A. Pagan will draft up possible new title and content. ○ Community Needs and Engagement (#6) - define local institutions. ○ Barriers and Challenges (#7) – change title to Funding Challenges. ○ Limitations – reviewed language and updated content. ○ Conclusion – reviewed language and updated content. A. Pagan will send new language.

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	Council reviewed updates; edits were made through track changes.
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. Currently we have 2 language services providers, each providing services in over 100 languages. The office has provided ASL interpreters via virtual relay and in-person interpreting for vaccination pods. We work with the Nations to ensure support during the pandemic and focus on equitable distribution. We've been working on internal processes and focusing on post pandemic, we will be working on a Health Equity Plan, and also focusing on our legislative charge.
Selection of 2021 Minority Health Council Meetings	Ms. Soto reviewed the remaining 2021 meeting dates; they are September 17 th and December 17 th . If possible and subject to guidance, the September and December meetings may be in-person in New York City. 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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue discussion on the conclusion of the survey report • Post pandemic activities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ How are people handling “returning to normal”? ○ How will the transition of the re-entry into workforce impact childcare? ○ Discussion on challenges and barriers ○ Vaccine hesitancy ○ Addressing discrimination • Request the Health Commissioner or representative to do a presentation on the following four areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ How we did on vaccinations and who’s still left behind. What are the plans for the future? ○ How is the state addressing health disparities? ○ What are the plans to rebuild the public health infrastructure in our state? ○ What is the Commissioner doing to fight racism in our health sector in our state? • Research on COVID-19 long haulers situation • Look at the infrastructure of Medicaid and Medicare
Meeting Recap, Feedback, Action Items and Next Steps	Some action items identified were: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finalizing the Draft Survey Report • Plan interim meeting to finalize Survey Report and identify future agenda items
Adjournment	Ms. Soto opened the floor to any public participants in attendance via telecast. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No public comments/questions were entered <p>The meeting adjourned at 1:00 PM.</p>

Next Meeting Date
September 17, 2021

Time
9:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Location
TBD