



## MRT Work Group Meeting Summary

### WORK GROUP NAME:

Health Disparities

### MEETING DATE, TIME, LOCATION:

August 9, 2011 - 10:30 – 3:30  
1450 Western Avenue  
Albany, New York (OASAS)

### MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

**Co-chair** – OASAS Commissioner, Arelene Gonzalez-Sanchez; **Co-chair** - Elizabeth Swain, Noilyn Abesamis-Mendoza, MPH; Nisha Agarwal; Diana M. Babcock; LaRay Brown; Jo Ivey Boufford, MD; Carla Boutin-Foster, MD, MS; Neil Calman, MD ; J. Emilio Carrillo, MD; Susan Dooha; Rosa M. Gil, DSW; Charles King; Jonathan Lang; Pamela Mattel, LCSW, CASAC; Dennis A. Mitchell, DDS, MPH; Ngozi Moses; Theo Oshiro; Smiti Kapadia on behalf of Chau Trinh-Shevrin, DrPH; Jackie Vimo

### SUMMARY OF KEY MEETING CONTENT:

The first meeting focused on providing background information to ensure that the Disparities Work Group targeted its work from a common knowledge base and identifies major issue areas where specific recommendations are to be developed.

Work Group members first provided background on themselves, their organizations and the constituencies they represent. Members discussed their goals and expectations for the Work Group's focus and offered one or two initial priorities they would like to have the Work Group discuss.

The group then reviewed its charge and offered several modifications to the charge to better reflect the need to collect data in a manner that allows for more comprehensive assessment of health disparities. A final version of the charge will be circulated to the Work Group for approval.

A presentation on Health Homes was given to the Work Group. In addition, data on health disparities in New York and a summary of proposals to address disparities that have previously been submitted to the MRT or suggested by other parties were presented.

Significant discussion centered on the health homes model and how the model might best address disparities. In addition, health data requirements imposed under the Affordable Care Act (ACA) were discussed within the context of enhanced and coordinated data collection efforts that will better describe disparities among specific populations including but not limited to persons with disabilities, LGBTQ populations and linguistic minorities.

The Work Group identified 14 issue areas, listed below, to focus their efforts. For the first five of these issue areas there was interest in forming committees of interested members to work on options for the next Work Group meeting in September. For the remaining issue areas, a list of disparities proposals will be organized under the appropriate issue area to facilitate discussion at the September meeting.

These issue areas include the following:

1. *Health Homes*
2. *Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer disparities issues*
3. *Disparities Impact Assessments*
4. *Safety Net Providers, their financial stability and its impact on addressing disparities*
5. *Access to health services, structural practices that may impede access or promote disparities (to include immigrant and linguistic minority access).*
6. *Chemically Dependent Individuals*
7. *Homeless Persons*
8. *Persons with HIV (sexual health)*
9. *Persons living with mental illness*
10. *Community-driven health planning to address disparities*
11. *Metrics to measure disparities*
12. *Access to Care (Medicaid expansion, Basic Health Plan and Health Insurance Exchange and newly eligible populations)*
13. *Perinatal Care*
14. *Workforce*

Lastly, the Work Group discussed the need to prioritize its work to ensure the development of useful recommendations by October.

Members asked for additional information to guide their work. Members specifically requested:

- *Statistics on persons with disabilities*
- *Statistics on persons with mental illness*
- *Statistics on persons with developmental disabilities*
- *Studies evaluating the stability of safety net providers*

#### **NEXT STEPS/PRELIMINARY AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING:**

Next steps include:

- *to establish the five topical committees to focus on defined areas/populations/issues*
- *to provide the additional information requested by members*
- *to review proposed recommendations previously submitted or offered by Work Group members and to organize them into of the issue areas as defined by the Working Group.*

The group agreed to devote a portion of the next meeting to a discussion of proposals related to the health home model of care so that recommendations can be forwarded to the MRT Health Home Working Group to inform its deliberations.

Preliminary Agenda:

- *Reports from each of the five topical committees*
- *Identification and discussion of proposed recommendations for each of the issue areas.*
- *Discussion of a prioritization process.*

**NEXT MEETING DATE, TIME, LOCATION:**

Friday, September 16, 2011  
1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
90 Church Street  
New York, New York