

SUMMARY OF NADD HEALTH DISPARITIES TASK FORCE MEETING
November 6, 2009
Grand Hyatt,
Lone Star Ballroom, Salon E
3:00-4:00 PM

Meeting Co-Facilitators: Eddie Uehara, Alberto Godenzi

Present: Larry Davis, Alberto Godenzi, Cudore Snell, Sheila Bunch, Sue Perlmutter, Jacqueline Mondros, Gail Steketee, Katherine Van Blair, Mona Schatz, Lorraine Midanik, Mary Gillmore, Steve Huberman, Larry Ortiz, Salome Raheim, Ike Adams, Marjorie Sable, Norma Thomas, Wynne Korr, Eddie Uehara.

Guest: Wendy Naus, Lewis-Burke Associates (for CSWE).

The following items were on the agenda for this meeting:

1. Approval of Sept. 29th meeting summary
2. Discussion/approval of statement of HD TF purpose for NADD website
3. Update/discussion: Health Disparities Curriculum Infusion Project
4. Update/discussion: NADD-sponsored health disparities conference
5. Update/discussion: Program survey
6. Update from CSWE: Briefing on CSWE's legislative activity around health disparities
7. Discussion of the role of NADD/social work education in the national health care debate

1. Approval of Sept. 29th meeting summary

Eddie Uehara, meeting co-facilitator, welcomed participants for joining the meeting. Following a round of introductions, she reviewed the meeting agenda and asked for approval of the Sept. 29th summary, as modified slightly by Alberto. The edited summary of our Sept. 29th meeting was reviewed and approved.

2. Discussion/approval of HD TF statement of purpose

The draft Health Disparities Task Force's statement of purpose was discussed, edited, and approved. Our statement of purpose reads:

Health Disparities Task Force

NADD's Health Disparities Task Force works to strengthen the role and advance the national leadership of schools and departments of social work in the effort to eliminate disparities in health care and health status. Current initiatives include: (1) fielding a survey to better understand current health disparities content in social work programs; (2) seeking funding for a "curriculum infusion" proposal that would provide resources for strengthening health disparities content/curricula in social work programs, and (3) sponsoring a NADD conference on health disparities.

This statement will be placed on the NADD Task Force Webpage. Our section on the webpage will also contain these additional items:

- Task Force Membership
- Meeting Summaries (2009-2010)
- Task Force Initiatives (2009-2010)
- Resources
- Links

=> *FOLLOW UP: Eddie and Alberto to post description of HD Task Force and other materials on NADD's Task Force webpage.*

3. Health Disparities Curriculum Infusion Project

Alberto reiterated the current status of our curriculum infusion proposal: The OMH director is enthusiastic and remains so; our current OMH contact, Theresa Chapa, also supportive. We're requesting approx. \$100,000, with no overhead expenses included. The proposal would allow us to hire a project director to coordinate planning. We have no word yet on funding as the new budget for OMH will not be approved earlier than December 18, 2009 (the last date for appropriations). Alberto and Larry Davis will make trip to D.C. to connect again w/ Dr. Garth Graham; task force members who are able to join them are welcomed.

Wendy Naus pointed out that the way the federal budget approval process works is such that Congressional approval of OMH's 2010 budget may not occur until mid-December or perhaps even January of 2010. Wendy suggested we also consider asking

to put this request in OMH's 2011 budget, just in case we do not get funding this fiscal year. Wendy graciously volunteered to track for us the progress of our funding request for us.

Larry Ortiz urged that health disparities content should be integrated into EPAS advanced competencies. Eddie commented that the proposed plan of activities includes developing advanced competencies, using the advanced substance use prevention, advanced clinical social work, and advanced gero social work projects as models.

The group discussed alternative potential funding sources for this initiative, including Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and CDC. However, given that we should hear word from OMH in December or January, we are taking no immediate steps to explore funding alternatives at this time.

4. NADD-sponsored health disparities conference

Alberto reported on the health disparities conference planning group meeting, held via conference call on Oct. 1st. The planning group opted for a small conference (150-200 participants), likely to coincide with SSWR's winter conference in 2011 or 2012. The group plans to pursue NIH R13 funding, and to explore other funding sources as well. Application deadlines for R13 funding are April 12, August 12, and December 12. Alberto said the planning group estimates that conference costs will total approximately \$50,000.

A discussion of the potential focus of the conference ensued. It was noted that there have been a number of conferences/summits focusing on health disparities lately. Some thought might be given to how this conference can be distinguished from others. At least two suggestions appeared to hold the interest of meeting participants: (1) the conference could focus on showing the link between social work and public health; (2) the conference could include a focus on "upstream" interventions (e.g., with families, schools, communities).

5. Program survey

Sue Pearlmutter, Marjorie Sable, Mary Gilmore and Jackie Mondros presented a draft of a survey intended to determine current efforts addressing health disparities in social work and collaborating programs. The survey seeks information about MSW and public health programs. Larry Davis suggested a possible issue for the future: developing strategies to equalize and strengthen partnerships between public health and social work programs, these often are not equitable for social work. The group discussed inclusion in the survey of other types of partnerships, i.e., social work and nursing. Gail Steketee offered to seek additional review of the survey by Betty Ruth, director of the MSW/PH program at Boston University. The group discussed the audience for the

survey, possible changes in language and conceptualization, and others suggested additional questions to include.

6. Update on CSWE's legislative activity around health disparities.

Wendy Naus informed the group that CSWE has been focusing on three themes for health care reform: (1) social workers in primary care; (2) eliminating health disparities through culturally competent care, and (3) recruitment and retention of social work professionals in health care. CSWE shared these themes and specific legislative proposals with Congressional committees working on health reform legislation. Wendy also informed the group that health disparities content is included in two Senate bills and one House bill.

7. Discussion of the role of NADD in the national health care debate

Steve Huberman pointed out that there is little social work in the current health care debate. Mona Schatz reminded the group that social work has developed a knowledge base on health disparities, thanks to social work research (a question that will be included in our survey).

Eddie Uehara said that she, James Herbert, and Alberto will work to put the Health Disparities Task Force materials on NADD's website, and that they would follow up shortly with a suggestion for a conference call/meeting sometime in the next month or two. She thanked members of the task force for participating in the meeting.

Meeting ended: 4:00 p.m.