

**Minutes**  
**Committee to Eliminate Health Care Disparities**  
**September 9, 2016**  
**Teleconference**  
**7:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.**  
**Via Teleconference**

**Present**

Milton Haynes, MD, Chair  
M. Monica Sweeney, MD, MPH, Vice-Chair  
Adolph Meyer, MD, Vice-Chair  
Anthony Clemendor, MD  
Arsyle DeJesus, MD  
Lisa Eng, DO  
Nina Huberman, MD  
Lynda Hohmann, MD  
Malcolm Reid, MD, MPP, MSSNY President  
Gregory Threatte, MD  
Willie Underwood, MD  
Leone Waltrous, MD

**Absent**

Louis Auguste, MD  
Inderpal Chhabra, MD  
Linda Clark, MD, MS  
Joshua Cohen, MD  
Linda Efferen, MD  
Lorena Gonzalez, MD  
Michael Knight, MD  
Thomas Madejski, MD, FACP  
Joseph Sellers, MD  
Sumir Sahgal, MD  
Albert Thomas, MD

**MSSNY Staff**

Pat Clancy, VP Public Health & Education  
Melissa Hoffman, Research Assistant Public Health & Education

1 **1) Welcome / Introductions:** Dr. Haynes called the meeting to order and welcomed the  
2 committee.

3 **2) Approval of Minutes:** May 6, 2016 approved as written.

4 **3) Revised Health Care Disparities Committee Vision & Mission Statement:**

5 **VISION STATEMENT:** It is our vision to provide quality care to **all** people throughout New  
6 York State.

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8 **MISSION STATEMENT:** We will work to increase awareness of Health Care Disparities and  
9 advocate for its elimination.

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11 Ms. Clancy agreed to send out to the committee; both the Vision & Mission statements for  
12 comments and then take a vote.

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14 **4) AMA's CEHD:** It was stated that Dr. Sweeney represented MSSNY at the spring meeting.  
15 The Commission to End Health Care Disparities at the AMA level was sunsetted. They also  
16 refunded dues to the societies that had paid for the upcoming year. There have been a number  
17 of societies and groups trying to come together, to keep the work of the commission going,  
18 especially in the area of health care disparities. One member stated that he strongly supports  
19 being a part of a newly created group. Several members voiced disappointment about the  
20 commission being disband.

21 Since the AMA said there was corporate support that had diminished, the sponsors should be  
22 contacted and find out what happened and maybe come up with a plan that would convince them  
23 to give support. Ms. Clancy agreed to contact the Office of Minority Health for some help with  
24 funding. It was stated that Senator Rivera showed interest in working with/supporting the  
25 committee and should be contacted. One member suggested that AHRQ be contacted regarding

funding because they are a quality based organization. It was suggested that the first step, before inquiring about funding is to come up with a strategic plan from the MSSNY Committee. It was agreed that there would be a subcommittee created to work on a plan of action. Doctors Haynes, Sweeney, Clark, Eng, Hohmann, Huberman, Reid and Underwood all agreed to be on the subcommittee.

#### 5) Potential Legislative Initiatives:

- **SOMOS El Futuro, and Black Puerto Rican Hispanic & Asian Caucus presentations: Spring Conference – March 2017:** The committee was supposed to present last year at the conference but was unable to do so. Now that the committee will have a strategic plan it was stated that this would be a good time to present. It was stated that having a plan and presenting it to the conference is very important. Ms. Clancy agreed to get information regarding both this conference and the February caucus.
- **Legislation introduced by Assemblywoman Crystal Peoples-Stokes dealing with collaborative programs between physicians, hospitals and home care agencies that address health care disparities:** It was suggested that the committee speak with Al Cardillo and then with Assemblywoman Peoples-Stokes regarding this legislation.
- **Potential Legislative grants for MSSNY HCD initiatives:** A part of this discussion should be on both the strategic plan and funding.

**6) Doctors Back to School Program Updates:** It was stated that both Dr. Reid and Dr. Haynes have gone to Mt. Vernon. The committee is hoping to schedule more of these programs.

#### 7) Legislative Statement:

MSSNY's Committee to Eliminate Health Care Disparities works to ensure that all New Yorkers receive the best possible care. This work includes attracting a more diversified physician workforce, increasing the numbers of minority faculty teaching in medical schools, expanding medical school pipeline programs in rural and urban areas to address the shortage of physicians in medically underserved areas of New York State, and, where appropriate, support for legislation that addresses the root problems of health care disparities. MSSNY's committee, ~~in conjunction with the American Medical Association~~, conducts *Doctors Back to School* programs, in which physicians go into middle and high schools in areas with high minority populations and talk to students about choosing medicine as a career. This program has become increasingly popular with schools repeatedly asking the physicians to return for programs year after year. Cultural ~~competence~~ **sensitivity** and health literacy are both extremely important aspects of providing optimum health care to minority populations. Securing private reimbursement for language services for patients with limited English proficiency is essential. The collection and aggregation of health care and demographic data on a regional and institutional level is also necessary to facilitate analysis by race and ethnicity. MSSNY's long-standing commitment to finding real solutions to improve access to high-quality medical care for all New Yorkers is reflected in the work of its Committee to Eliminate Health Care Disparities.

**8) MRT/DSRIP, Health Competency & Literacy Powerpoint:** Ms. Clancy will have someone from The Office of Minority Health come to the next meeting to talk about their goals with DSRIP.

**9) 2017 Meeting Dates:** January 20, 2017; April 7, 2017 and October 20, 2017