

Draft Minutes
Committee on Health Care Disparities
May 17, 2019 @ 7:30 AM via Webex

Present

Linda Clark, MD, Co-Chair
Erick Eiting, MD, Co-Chair
Adolph Meyer, MD, Vice-Chair
Anthony Clemendor, MD
Frank Dowling, MD
Lisa Eng, MD
Nina Huberman, MD
Shail Maingi, MD
Monica Sweeny, MD
Janine Fogarty, MD, Asst. Commissioner
Connor Orrico, Student

Excused

Art Fougner, MD, President
Indu Gupta, MD

Absent

Louis Auguste, MD
Adwoa Boahene, MD
Maria De Jesus, MD
John Gillespie, MD
Rebecca Guisti, MD
Milton Haynes, MD
Lynda Hohmann, MD
Eliezer Kinberg, MD
Thomas Madejski, MD, Past President
Michale Pisacano, MD
Malcolm Reid, MD
Willie Underwood, MD

Staff

**Pat Clancy, Sr. Vice-President Public Health
and Education**
Maureen Ramirez, Administrative Asst.

- 1 **1) Welcome** – new co-chairs, vice-chair and new committee members.
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3 **2) Adoption of minutes** – October 26, 2018, October 30, 2018 and January 25, 2019 –
4 approved.
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6 **3) Evaluations of HOD Presentation on Maternal Mortality** – Dr. Clark thanked Melissa
7 Hoffman for all her assistance with the presentation of this program at the MSSNY’s 2019
8 House of Delegates. There were 53 attendees at this program. Of these attendees 33 filled out
9 evaluations. 93% graded the program good/excellent. There was discussion that there wasn’t
10 much emphasis on Asian and other minorities. There was discussion that the results lean
11 towards the need for more information and more education. Are there different ways to be
12 successful in dealing with maternal mortality? Are there other models that we could gain
13 information from? This program did look into other programs here in the United States to
14 obtain information regarding improved health outcomes. The chair asked if this program could
15 be made an enduring program for CME? A motion was made to create a webinar based on the
16 House of Delegates presentation – all were in favor – motion passed. Pat Clancy will pursue the
17 proper avenues to start putting this webinar into place.
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19 **4) AMA Announcement** – Dr. Dowling shared an announcement from the AMA appointing
20 Aletha Maybank, MD, MPH as the first Chief Equity Officer. Dr. Dowling reminded the

21 committee this was a direct result of the committee’s resolution to MSSNY’s HOD and then on
22 to the AMA two years ago, calling for the development of a center to address health inequities.
23 It was suggested that a request go out from the committee to Dr. Maybank to see if she could
24 attend the next committee meeting in October. Dr. Eiting pointed out that this program is well
25 supported by the AMA and should endure for quite some time. All this as a result of this
26 committee’s resolution back in 2017. Pat Clancy will reach out to the AMA regarding Dr.
27 Maybank and will cc Drs. Sweeney, Eiting and Dowling when she does.

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29 **5) Legislative Updates –**

30 a) Recreational Marijuana – Pat Clancy informed the committee that efforts to remove the
31 proposal in the governor’s budget to approved recreational marijuana was successful. In large
32 part to MSSNY’s efforts to get this removed. There are factions that are looking to amend the
33 law regarding medical marijuana to remove the word “serious” from the acceptable
34 circumstances in which to certify marijuana for medical purposes and to allow smoking of
35 marijuana as well. MSSNY’s policy was reaffirmed to the committee that MSSNY would not
36 support the removal of the designation “serious” as in “serious” illness or under “serious”
37 circumstances and MSSNY policy does not support smoking under any circumstances.

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39 b) Measles – MSSNY’s objective to support Assembly A.2371 which removes religious
40 exemptions and only allows medical exemptions from vaccinations is moving forward at an
41 aggressive pace. MSSNY, along with over 28 public health and child advocacy agencies are
42 collaborating to see that this bill passes. There has been one press conference to date. There
43 have been targeted meetings with representatives from MSSNY and these other agencies with
44 members of the NYS Assembly Health Committee putting forth MSSNY’s stance regarding the
45 removal of religious exemptions to vaccinations. There is another press conference scheduled
46 for next week. Various officers from MSSNY and well as representatives of this organization and
47 other supporters are working tirelessly to get this bill passed. There is every indication at this
48 point that MSSNY’s efforts are working and that this bill to remove medical exemptions can be
49 passed. Every member is encouraged to reach out to their state representatives and let them
50 know MSSNY’s stance regarding this bill. Vigilance is most important at this time. Ms. Clancy
51 will send information out to the committee members.

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53 **5) Future discussion topics -** Future discussion on moving forward with disseminating
54 information regarding maternal morbidity. Gender equity and conversion therapy. Access to
55 drugs and the cost to patients. Limits to those drugs caused by economic disparities.

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57 **6) Next Meeting – October 25, 2019**

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59 **Adjourned**