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## The Ohio Commission on Minority Health



Quarterly Newsletter

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John Kasich, Governor

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### THE COMMISSION ON MINORITY HEALTH APPLAUDS THE NPA

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Office of Minority Health established The *National Partnership for Action to End Health Disparities (NPA)* in response to a call to action for a nationwide, comprehensive, community-driven, sustained approach to combating health disparities and achieving health equity. The main goal of this initiative is to foster community involvement and broad-based partnerships at all levels and among a range of sectors, particularly those at the front-line of fighting health disparities. Key components of the NPA include the National Stakeholder Strategy (NSS) and; Blueprints for Action that are aligned with the NSS and guide action at the local, state and regional levels. Partners across the public and private sectors in support of the NPA will be encouraged to undertake targeted initiatives.



#### Executive Summary

In 1985, the United States Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) released a landmark report documenting the existence of health disparities for minorities in the United States. It called such disparities, "an affront both to our ideals and to the ongoing genius of American medicine." In the decades since the release of that report much has changed in our society—including significant improvements in health and health services throughout the nation. Nevertheless, health and healthcare disparities continue to exist and, in some cases, the gap continues to grow for racial and ethnic minorities, the poor, and other at-risk populations. Beyond the heavy burden that health disparities represent for the individuals affected, there are additional social and financial burdens borne by the country as a whole. These burdens constitute both ethical and practical mandates to reduce health disparities and achieve health equity.

#### Ohio National Partnership for Action Implementation Plan

The Ohio Commission on Minority Health was the recipient of \$10,000 from the National Offices of Minority Health (NASOMH) to fund our efforts to implement the National Partnership for Action Plan to Reduce Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities.

On April 8, 2011, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services launched two strategic plans aimed at reducing health disparities: the HHS Action Plan to Reduce Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities and the National Stakeholder Strategy for Achieving Health Equity. This event was historic and was the culmination of many decades of work in this field.

The HHS Action Plan to Reduce Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities outlines goals and actions HHS will take to reduce health disparities among racial and ethnic minorities.

The vision of the HSS Disparities Action Plan is "A nation free of disparities in health and health care." It will promote integrated approaches, evidence-based programs and best practices to reduce these disparities.

As a part of an existing agreement NASOMH was provided funding to assist states in implementing this plan nationwide.

TOGETHER  
THESE PLANS WILL  
GUIDE THE WORK  
GOING FORWARD.  
TOGETHER WE CAN!  
TOGETHER WE WILL!

## Read the Plans

The *HHS Action Plan to Reduce Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities* outlines goals and actions HHS will take to reduce health disparities among racial and ethnic minorities. With the HHS Disparities Action Plan, the Department commits to continuously assessing the impact of all policies and programs on racial and ethnic health disparities. It will promote integrated approaches, evidence-based programs and best practices to reduce these disparities. The HHS Action Plan builds on the strong foundation of the Affordable Care Act and is aligned with programs and initiatives such as Healthy People 2020, the First Lady's *Let's Move* initiative and the President's National HIV/AIDS Strategy.

Read the HHS Action Plan to Reduce Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities

## What are Health Disparities?

A health disparity a particular type of health difference that is closely linked with social, economic, and/or environmental disadvantage. Health disparities adversely affect groups of people who have systematically experienced greater obstacles to health based on their racial or ethnic group; religion; socioeconomic status; gender; age; mental health; cognitive, sensory, or physical disability; sexual orientation or gender identity; geographic location; or other characteristics historically linked to discrimination or exclusion

## The Ohio Implementation Plan

### Goal 1

#### Engage Communities:

The OCMH will work with the six Local Offices of Minority Health to hold regular meetings on NPA implementation. In addition we will work to expand collaborations and stakeholders to mobilize our networks to support local and national plan

### Goal 2

#### Improve Awareness and Communication:

The OCMH will develop a newsletter as a vehicle to inform the media, legislators and communities leaders regarding health disparities. The Commission will update the existing website and ensure linkages to the national, state and local plans to address disparities.

### Goal 3

#### Leadership:

The OCMH will adopt the NPA goals as a part of their Strategic Plan and work with other State Departments to develop a coordinated and comprehensive state strategy.

## The Goals of the NPA

The mission of the NPA is to increase the effectiveness of programs that target the elimination of health disparities by fostering effective coordination of partners, leaders, and stakeholders who are committed to action. Based on a "community up" approach, the NPA serves as a catalyst for collective leadership action by organizations at every level of engagement around five main goals:

1. **AWARENESS**-Increase awareness of the significance of health disparities, their impact on the nation, and the actions necessary to improve health outcomes for racial, ethnic, and underserved populations.
2. **LEADERSHIP**-Strengthen and broaden leadership for addressing health disparities at all levels.
3. **HEALTH SYSTEM AND LIFE EXPERIENCE**- Improve health and healthcare outcomes for racial, ethnic, and underserved populations.
4. **CULTURAL AND LINGUISTIC COMPETENCY**-Improve cultural and linguistic competency and the diversity of the health-related workforce.
5. **DATA, RESEARCH, AND EVALUATION**-Improve data availability, and coordination, utilization, and diffusion of research and evaluation outcomes.

## NPA Guide to Health Disparities Resources

The NPA Guide to Health Disparities Resources is an easy-to-use guide published by the Office of Minority Health. This NPA guide lists phone numbers and addresses to OMH regional coordinators, Public Health Service minority liaisons, Federal information centers and clearinghouses, and national organizations, categorized by target population. There is also a section on minority colleges.

## The NPA Toolkit for Community Action

To support community efforts in the goal of ending health disparities and promoting health equity, the Office of Minority Health has released the new NPA Toolkit for Community Action. Through this toolkit, community members will have the information and resources they need to help engage fellow citizens and local media as they spread the word about health disparities and educate others about the impact disparities have in the lives of individuals and the greater impact on society.

Together, the HHS Strategic Action Plan and the National Stakeholder Strategy provide visible and accountable federal leadership while also promoting collaborations among communities, states, tribes, the private sector and other stakeholders to more effectively reduce health disparities.

## Minority Health Month 2012 Grantees

The following agencies have received funding for Minority Health Month 2012. A calendar of events for the entire state will be available in mid March.

Rape Crisis Center, Akron  
Mobile Meals, Inc., Akron  
Akron Regional Hospital Foundation  
Berea Children's Home and Family Services  
Korean Central Presbyterian Church, Brecksville  
Ross County Community Action Commission, Inc., Chillicothe  
Carver Community Center, Chillicothe  
Southern Ohio Survivors/Chillicothe-Ross Foundation, Inc.  
YMCA of Ross County, Chillicothe  
Santa Maria Community Services, Cincinnati  
Cincinnati Health Department  
YWCA of Greater Cincinnati  
Gaines United Methodist Church, Cincinnati  
Union Baptist Church, Substance Abuse Outreach Ministry, Cincinnati  
Cincinnati Human Relations Commission  
Kidney Foundation of Ohio, Inc., Cleveland  
Senior Outreach Services, Inc., Cleveland  
Murtis Taylor Human Services System, Cleveland  
Community Action Against Addiction (CAA), Cleveland  
Olivet Housing & Community Development Corporation, Cleveland  
Sigma Rho Sorority, Inc. (Alpha Lambda Sigma Chapter), Cleveland  
Asian Services in Action, Inc., Cleveland  
Advent Evangelical Lutheran Church, Cleveland  
Kincaid's Kindred Spirits, Inc., Cleveland  
The Cleveland Clinic  
Cleveland Department of Public Health  
Soaring Higher, Cleveland Heights  
Community Arts Project, dba The King Arts Complex, Columbus  
Masjid As-Salaamah, Inc., Columbus  
City of Refuge Point of Impact, Columbus  
Educational Solutions Co. (Centro Esperanza), Columbus  
The Ohio State University, Columbus  
Project Linden, Inc., Columbus  
Ohio Hispanic Coalition, Columbus

East Columbus Development Company Inc.  
Central Ohio Diabetes Association, Columbus  
Columbus Public Health  
Abigail's Journey Inc., Dayton  
American Fitness Health & Wellness Institute, Dayton  
Dayton Urban Ministry Center  
Community Action Partnership, Dayton  
Weslet Community Center, Inc., Dayton  
Asian American Council, Dayton  
Public Health- Dayton & Montgomery County  
Unified Health Solutions, Dayton  
Townhall II, Kent  
El Centro de Servicios Sociales, Inc., Lorain  
City of Mansfield- Department of Regional Community Advancement  
Portsmouth Inner City Health Department  
Family and Community Services, Inc., Ravenna  
Erie-Huron Counties Community Action Commission, Inc., Sandusky  
Steubenville Community, Inc.  
Summit County Combined General Health District, Stow  
Warren A.M.E. Church Vision Empowerment Board, Toledo  
YMCA of Greater Toledo/Wayman D. Palmer Community YMCA  
The Toledo Hospital, dba ProMedica Toledo Hospital

St. Vincent Mercy Medical Center, Toledo  
Lucas County Regional District, Toledo  
Asian Resource Center, Toledo  
YWCA Warren  
Greene County Combined Health District, Xenia  
Warriors, Inc., Youngstown  
YWCA of Youngstown  
Ebony Lifeline Support Group Inc., Youngstown  
OCCHA, Inc., Youngstown  
Youngstown City Health District  
Zane State College Foundation, Zanesville

This year will mark the 25th anniversary of the Ohio Commission on Minority Health! The Board of the Ohio Commission on Minority Health sends you greetings as we invite you and your staff, clients to join us for Health Expo 2012 the inaugural event for Minority Health Month. The event will be held on Thursday March 29, 2012 from 9 am-1 pm at the Vern Riffe Center in the Capitol Theater, 3rd Floor.

Local Offices of Minority Health will be holding kickoffs around the state.  
A calendar of events will be available at a later date.