

**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON MINORITY HEALTH (ACMH)**

**December 5, 2017
1:00–2:30 p.m. ET
via Conference Call**

Committee Attendees

Paul Juarez, PhD, Chair
Linda Frizzell, PhD
Gregory J. Maddox II, MD
Cynthia Mojica, PhD, MPH
Sela V. Panapasa, PhD
Rea Pañares, MHS
Winston F. Wong, MD

Federal Staff

Alexis Bakos, PhD, MPH, RN, Senior Advisor to the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Minority Health, Office of Minority Health (OMH), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (Alternate Designated Federal Officer, ACMH)
Juliet Bui, MPA, MSW, Justice and Behavioral Health Policy Lead, Division of Policy and Data, OMH
Enrique Fernandez, Legislative Analyst, OMH
Zannah Herridge-Meyer, MPH, Health Equity Research Fellow, Office of the Director, OMH
Minh Wendt, PhD, Public Health Advisor, Division of Policy and Data, OMH (Designated Federal Officer, ACMH)

Opening Remarks and Roll Call

Paul Juarez, PhD, Chair

Dr. Juarez called the meeting to order, reviewed the agenda for the meeting, and conducted a roll call of committee members and federal staff.

Recap of Previous Meeting

Paul Juarez, PhD, Chair

Dr. Juarez summarized the meeting that was held on August 28–29, 2017. The committee heard from experts representing health, public health, policy, and law enforcement agencies regarding the impact of the opioid crisis at the federal, state, and local level.

At the last meeting, Committee members agreed to focus their recommendations on data limitations related to opioids, particularly for racial and ethnic populations and drafted a memo to the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Health and OMH Director, Dr. Matthew Lin.

Memo Discussion and Approval: Opioid Crisis: Data-Related Strategies for Special Populations to Improve Health Equity and Prevent Opioid Addiction and Overdose

Committee Discussion

Dr. Juarez outlined the structure and key points of the draft memo:

- Background information on the origins and evolving face of the opioid epidemic, including the impact on racial and ethnic populations
- Federal, state, local, and tribal efforts to combat the opioid crisis
- Needs across all communities and among racial and ethnic minority populations, including data limitations
- Recommendations and proposed strategies
- Conclusion

Committee members discussed the draft memo and proposed the following recommendations and strategies:

1. Improve existing data and data collection efforts related to opioid use and addiction by leveraging resources within OMH and other federal agencies and encouraging collaboration with tribal, state, and local governments to increase the quality and linkage of data to advance health equity.
2. Improve methods for collecting data and projecting needs of opioid use and addiction among special or rare (numerically small) populations for underrepresented populations.
3. Fund new data collection efforts which focus on special or rare (numerically small) and hard-to-reach populations related to opioid use and addiction.

Committee members discussed the draft memo with specific suggestions and edits.

Dr. Juarez noted that the committee would finalize the memo during the next in-person meeting.

ACMH Meeting Planning: March 26–27, 2018

Committee Discussion

Dr. Juarez stated that the agenda would include time to work on the CLAS Standards memo and to discuss serious mental illness, which was the next major topic that the committee wanted to address. He noted that the committee would discuss the third topic on its list, childhood obesity, at a future meeting.

Committee members discussed potential focus areas and speakers for the meeting:

- Need to recognize the role of the criminal justice system as the de facto mechanism for addressing mental health issues in minority communities.
- Should invite a speaker from SAMHSA to present evaluation data for the Systems of Care project and discuss successes and challenges, as well as access to treatment for co-occurring disorders (i.e., mental health and chemical dependency).
- Suggest inviting Paolo del Vecchio, who directs the Center for Mental Health Services at SAMHSA, as a speaker. His portfolio includes many of the programs that address serious

mental illness and integration of co-occurring disorders, such as substance abuse, as well as co-occurring physical health conditions.

- The role of federal insurance programs (e.g., Medicaid, Medicare, Children’s Health Insurance Program, Affordable Care Act) in providing support for treatment of serious mental illness. Key questions would be which programs provide mental health services, what services they provide, who can access those services, who cannot access them, and whether they provide continuity of care.
- Need to address stigmas around mental illness.
- Should invite speakers from national organizations, such as the American Psychiatric Association, the American Psychological Association, or the National Association of Social Workers.
- Need to look at upstream approaches to prevent serious mental illness. The Committee should invite Dr. Larke Huang who directs SAMHSA’s Office of Behavioral Health Equity and is the agency’s lead for a partnership between SAMHSA and DOJ.
- Should examine disparities in diagnosis and treatment for mental illness in racial and ethnic minority populations and whether racial discrimination is a factor in mental illness.
- Emerging research is finding patterns between social determinants, such as residential segregation, and early childhood cognitive development and mental health. That work builds on previous research on adverse childhood experiences.
- Note that a priority for OMH is serious mental illness. Treatment for serious mental illness is primarily pharmacologic (i.e., antipsychotic and antidepressant medications), combined with cognitive-behavioral or other types of therapy. Access to those types of treatment for communities of color and tribal communities is extremely limited.
- Need to identify a speaker who could discuss access to culturally competent mental health care, including workforce issues. Dr. Altha Stewart is a potential speaker. She is the new President-Elect of the American Psychiatric Association and is based at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center in Memphis.
- Suggest a speaker from the National Sheriffs’ Association or a similar national organization to discuss how law enforcement agencies respond to serious mental illness.
- Suggest inviting a speaker from the National Health Care for the Homeless Council or a veteran’s organization.
- Suggest inviting a speaker from CMS to discuss reimbursement for behavioral health services.

Dr. Juarez asked committee members to contact OMH with recommendations for additional topics or speakers.

Public Comments

Dr. Juarez opened the floor for public comments.
No comments were offered.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m.