



**A Guide to Participating in the
Region IV Regional Conversation
Atlanta, GA
February 6 - 8, 2008**

Last year, the Office of Minority Health launched a multi-year initiative to address one of the most pressing issues today – *the disparity in health care for minority populations*.

You have been invited to the **Atlanta Regional Conversation**, February 6-8, 2008 because you are recognized as a leader, contributor, and/or stakeholder committed to making decisions and taking action to improve health and healthcare outcomes for racial and ethnic minorities in Region IV, as well as across the nation. The key objective of this multi-day meeting is to develop and share ideas and thoughts on how – at a regional level – we can collectively determine how to use the resources and knowledge available to us to more effectively and efficiently address health disparities.

Critical Questions and Issues

We are relying on your experience, talents and inquisitiveness to make our conversation inclusive and productive. To ensure that the plenary and breakout sessions make best use of your time, we ask that you prepare for these meetings by considering how health disparities are currently being addressed. Prior to the conference, we ask you to give thought to the following questions about regional partnerships and the impact they may have on eliminating health disparities in Region IV:

1. What are the most pressing health disparities in your state, or region? Which of these can we focus on collaboratively as a region?
2. Are there any successful model programs, or promising practices, in your state which could work on a regional level?
3. To eliminate health disparities in my region, what data or research would be useful in helping to develop a strategic action plan?
4. How can you be more effective in sharing information on successes and barriers to eliminating health disparities in our region?
5. What existing partnerships are successfully addressing health disparities in your state, or region?
6. What health disparities (populations, diseases, and issues) are NOT being addressed in my state, or region?
7. Although societal factors (e.g., lack of insurance, economics, discrimination, lack of transportation) have an impact on health status, what local/state/federal policies would have the greatest impact on eliminating health disparities?
8. Tell us about model programs or promising practices in your state that are designed to increase awareness of health disparities?
9. Are there programs, or organizations, in your state that have successfully developed a plan for strengthening local leadership?
10. How might improved patient-provider interaction and communication enhance the health status of racial/ethnic minorities in your state, or region? Are there any existing programs that should be applied on a regional level?
11. Is there a possibility that private sector partners (i.e., HMO's serving multiple states in Region IV) might agree to a coordinated, strategic approach that aligns with the planned Regional Blueprint?



Resources to Assist You

There are several documents that we have had developed or identified that are available on the OMH website which you should download and review prior to your arrival in Atlanta. Each of these resources offers additional information to assist and guide you as you prepare for the Regional Conversation. From profiles on minority health initiatives and specific programs occurring in other areas of the region, to bibliographies and fact sheets which provide additional information that will enhance the discussions in the facilitated breakout sessions, as well as “lessons learned” the importance of regional planning, building effective partnerships, and intra-state collaborations. Some specific resources include:

- **Bibliographies** that offer articles and books that on topics ranging from “Health Disparities and HIV/AIDS” to “Health Systems Regionalization and Partnerships.”
- **Fact Sheets** that provide important demographic and health-related statistics on African Americans, Native Americans/Alaska Natives, Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians/Pacific Islanders, and Hispanics.
- **State profiles** prepared by the National Association of State Offices of Minority Health (NASOMH) which describe the organizational structure, history, and mission statement of the Office of Minority Health in each Region IV state, as well as detailed information regarding funding sources (federal, state, private), staffing levels, current initiatives, etc.

We invite you to explore the NPA website (www.omhrc.gov/npa) as well as this guide. . . then, bring your enthusiasm, knowledge and insights to the conversation in Atlanta!

This information was assembled to help you share your opinions, thoughts and views—along with other local, state, tribal, regional and federal level experts and practitioners from both the private and public sectors—during the Atlanta Regional Conversation. Of course, this information is only an introduction to the exciting three-day meeting that we’ve scheduled for Region IV. The facilitated breakout groups and informative plenary sessions are all designed to allow you to discuss and converse with leaders throughout the region to further establish or strengthen inter- and intra-state partnerships.

In the meantime, should you have any questions, or need additional information regarding the planned activities, please do not hesitate to contact us!

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OMH and Team PSA looks forward to seeing you in Atlanta!