



Colorado Department  
of Public Health  
and Environment

# Health Equity Commission Meeting

March 7, 2014, 10:00 am, Sabin-Cleere Meeting Room  
Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment  
4300 Cherry Creek Drive South, Denver, CO 80246

## Meeting Minutes

*These minutes are a summary of the proceedings of the March 7, 2014 Health Equity Commission meeting. There were technical difficulties with the recording device during the meeting; therefore, a full recording of this meeting is not available.*

Present: Chris Armijo, Leo Kattari, Suzuho Shimaski, Karen Koenemann, Jeannette Jansson, Karen Koenemann, Nita Henry, Paul Stein, Linda Burhansstipanov, Melanie Tran  
Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) Staff: Mauricio Palacio, Deanna Butler, Brenda Smith, Karin McGowan, Judy McCree Carrington, Lorena Zimmer, Alyson Shupe

The Health Equity Commission meeting was opened by Chris Armijo, Commission Chair, and introductions were made.

Leo had a brief report from conversations that he and Chris have had with some of the Commission members around how their perceptions of how the work of the Commission is going. The plan is to have these follow-up conversations on a quarterly basis;

1. People have found that talking to and having presentations from the different divisions and employees within CDPHE has been helpful in understanding the Department and giving some background.
2. People are excited about the opportunity to influence the legislative agenda put forth by the Department.
3. There is a process and/or relationship building piece that seems to be missing in the Commission. There is hope to build on that in the future.
4. People would like to develop a strategy to talk with schools and have influence at an early point.

It was moved by Nita Henry and seconded by Linda Burhansstipanov that the minutes from the February 2014 Health Equity Commission meeting be approved.

The Commission members, staff and meeting attendees were asked to participate in small group discussions regarding CDPHE's data collection and reporting practices. Questions to consider and answer included:

- a. Which of CDPHE's data collection and reporting practices are key at informing our understanding and knowledge the state of health equity in Colorado?
- b. Which aspects of CDPHE's data collection and reporting practices need to be strengthened to further our knowledge and understanding of health equity in Colorado?
- c. What are Commissioners top recommendations for CDPHE's data collection and reporting practices moving forward?

The group came back together to share their discussions. It was decided that additional meetings were necessary in order to come up with a slate of recommendations for the Commission to vote on and present to the Department at the April Health Equity Commission meeting. Volunteers for this subcommittee were Linda Burhansstipanov, Melanie Tran and Suzuho Shimaski.

Alyson Shupe offered the following to the Commission regarding recommendations for data collection and reporting practices:

- Appoint a Commission member to the CDPHE Surveillance Advisory Board
- Expand the health disparities profiles
- Each report should include health disparities elements
- Keep moving forward!

It was decided that if anyone would like to apply for appointment to the Colorado HIV and AIDS Prevention Program (CHAPP) Advisory Committee, please send a complete application packet, along with a CV and/or resume, to either Brenda Smith or Lorena Zimmer or both by Friday, March 21, 2014. The applications will be distributed to the Commission members for review. If there is a significant amount of applicants, a preliminary voting system (preferably online) will be established and sent to the Commission members prior to the April meeting. The vote at the April meeting will be to determine which specific people to include as a slate of candidates to be presented to Dr Larry Wolk for his appointment choice.

Mauricio Palacio asked the Commission to specify priorities for the upcoming Request for Applications (RFA). He identified the two current priorities and asked the Commission for specific strategies, criteria and metrics for grantees to address in their scope. Mauricio will prepare a fact sheet of priority ideas for the Commission for the April meeting.

Deanna Butler explained that a vote by the Health Equity Commission was needed for the Health Disparities Grant Program. It was moved by Linda Burhansstipanov and seconded by Jeannette Jansson that year three of funding (YF14-15) be continued for the fourteen (14) grantees of the Health Disparities Grant Program. The motion was passed. This recommendation will be presented to the Board of Health on March 19, 2014 for their formal vote to continue funding.

Deanna Butler explained the commitment necessary by the Commission members. The time period of 4/23/2014 through 5/15/2014 is when the review committee members need to be available for independent review and to score grant applications. 5/16/2014 and 5/17/2014 are the dates of the funding conference that the Commission members need to come together as the review committee to review and vote on final recommendations for grant awards. This is a full day on Friday, the 16<sup>th</sup>, and a half day on Saturday, the 17<sup>th</sup>. Reviewers need to be present at the funding conference, which is a public meeting but not open for public comment, for the final vote. Deanna has recruited additional people to be part of the review committee.

Eliza Schultz, Legislative Liaison for the Department, was asked to attend the April Health Equity Commission meeting on April 4<sup>th</sup>. Commissioners should come to the April 4<sup>th</sup> meeting with legislative priorities and policy ideas for advancing health equity in Colorado.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:00 pm.

Health Equity Commission April meeting

Friday, April 4, 2014, 10:00 am

Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, 4300 Cherry Creek Drive South, Denver, CO 80246

Action: identify legislative priorities for health equity