

**Metro Refugee Health Task Force Minutes
Minnesota Department of Health
Tuesday, December 6th, 2005**

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December 6, 2005 PRESENTATIONS:

Barbara Greene, MPH, of Custom Health Consultants, presented on Hospice Minnesota's "Opening Doors to Multicultural Communities" initiative. The project is a multicultural end-of-life initiative that provides hospice organizations with patient and family-centered practices, resources, training opportunities and multicultural experiences. The goal of the project also includes outreach to population groups that may not be aware of hospice or that services are available to them.

Starting in 2003, a variety of private foundations funded the initiative for Hmong, Latino and African-American care. The project has included a survey of all hospice providers in the state about their experience and outreach with diverse populations, as well as trainings, a listserv and website.

For more information on the "Opening Doors" initiative, visit the Hospice MN website at: <http://www.mnhospice.org/displaycommon.cfm?an=1&subarticlenbr=136>

To view slides and handouts from Barbara's presentation, go to: <http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/idepc/refugee/metrof/index.html>

Handouts available online include:

- Summary sheet (description of initiative)
- Hmong hospice sheet which explains the concept of hospice
- Spanish hospice packet order form
- Spanish bereavement card order form for families from providers
- Hmong focus group outcomes (elders and adult women's focus group on end of life)

Following the discussion of hospice, Dr. Joyce Onyekaba spoke to the group about Crown Medical Center, the private, independent health clinic she opened in South Minneapolis last April. Born in Nigeria, Dr. Onyekaba practiced medicine in Africa before coming to the U.S. and becoming a board-certified internal medicine doctor. She spent the 12 years prior to opening Crown Medical on staff with HealthPartners.

According to Dr. Onyekaba, Crown Medical's mission is to serve all clients who need medical care, but particularly immigrants, minorities and women who need access to inexpensive and individualized care. Walk-ins are accepted and sliding fees are offered for people with no insurance.

Her greatest challenges are meeting the demand for care and still being able to cover her operating expenses, utilizing interpreters effectively and encouraging patient self-compliance with daily medication regimens. Yet, Dr. Onyekaba says she feels as an African immigrant herself, she is able to relate more closely to her patients and their experiences – the ways in which their lives have changed by the move to the U.S. In particular, one drastic and negative change she sees is the decrease in physical activity among African immigrants. Automobile use has replaced the habit of walking to visit

friends or do shopping that was common back home. Also, Dr. Onyekaba estimates that 30-40% of her patients are experiencing some sort of mental health issue (e.g., depression, anxiety, post-traumatic stress, etc.). She refers her patients for specialized mental health care when needed, but is concerned that the need is greater than available resources – particularly for multicultural populations.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The Saint Paul Public Library (SPPL) is beginning an initiative that will connect Hmong, Latino, and Somali metropolitan communities to important New American services and resources in Saint Paul libraries. Hmong, Latino, and Somali liaisons will work respectively with the library and communities to publicize new resources and valuable library-based new technology benefits. Media, community presentations, and other direct messages will take place to reach individuals of all ages.

For further information on the initiative, please contact Alice Neve at (651) 632-5088.

SAVE THE DATE!

**Children's Hospitals and Clinics, in partnership with the center for Cross Cultural Health, present a cross-cultural conference in Pediatrics
April 21, 2006**

Title: Children, Health and Culture: what do families need?

Venue: St Paul Heart and Lung Conference Center, 255 North Smith Ave, St Paul MN.

Brochures for this continuing education activity will be mailed in February and information will be available at www.childrensmn.org.

For more information, please contact Amy Holter at 612-813-8127 or amy.holter@childrensmn.org

The conference planning committee is looking for abstracts on a variety of topics relevant to cultural competency in health care for children, including:

- Changing roles and dynamics in new American families and their implications for health care
- Issues in health education and health literacy
- The role of cultural/linguistic competence in helping families access health care
- Strategies for resolving conflicts that arises from ethnic, cultural and language factors
- Culture-specific considerations in providing pediatric health care

Abstracts should be limited to one page or 400 words. Please include the following: presentation title, learning objectives/outcomes, presenter's name, job title, affiliation/organization, address, phone number and e-mail address. Activity length should be designed for a 60 to 90mn presentation. **They must be submitted by e-mail to elsa.batica@childrensmn.org by Friday, December 16, 2005.** Presenters will be notified by e-mail in January regarding the acceptance of their abstract.

Dying: a guide for beginners

A six-lecture series on death and dying, including a lecture on multicultural approaches/perspectives on the end of life will take place from February 21st to March 28th, 2005. More information can be found on the lectures at www.sppl.org

Professional standards of practice for medical interpreters have been published by the National Council on Healthcare. They can be reviewed on the council's website at www.ncihc.org

SAVE THE DATE!

**Indigenous Healing Conference & Exhibition On Chronic Diseases
(Cancer, Diabetes, Mental and Heart Illnesses)
Minneapolis, Minnesota
July 12-15, 2006**

Africa First, LLC of Minnesota, USA, in association with the Center for World Indigenous Studies, BirthingtheFuture, Traditional & Modern Health Care Providers Together Against AIDS (THETA) of Uganda, Zimbabwe National Traditional Healers Association and Traditional Health Practitioners Association of Zambia (THPAZ), is pleased to host an Indigenous Healing Conference on Chronic Diseases (Cancer, Diabetes, Mental and Heart Illnesses) in Minneapolis, Minnesota, USA, from July 12 through July 15, 2006.

This conference is intended to reach health policy makers, indigenous peoples, health institutions, researchers, conventional medical practitioners, medical schools, medical associations, psychiatrists, psychologists, psychiatric social workers, nurses, medical students, traditional health practitioners, foundations, hospitals, pharmaceutical and bio-technological companies, and the citizens of the world.

Conference Rationale:

Eight in ten of all health problems resulting in long-term health treatment needs or death are a product of chronic disease. Cardiovascular disease, mental health diseases, cancer, diabetes, obesity, and arthritis account for the vast majority of chronic conditions in human populations. Conventional medicine treats the symptoms, but often faces complications when the need is to prevent the conditions producing chronic disease. Complementary, Traditional and Alternative healing systems have demonstrated the capacity to effectively prevent and treat many chronic conditions. The combination of conventional systems of medicine and the complementary, traditional and alternative healing systems may ensure wide spread relief from chronic disease.

Conference Objectives:

- (1) To mobilize the knowledge, skills and expertise of indigenous healers (non-conventional medical practitioners) from every part of the world towards the identification and validation of effective and cheaper methods, formulas and therapies for the cure and prevention of chronic diseases.
- (2) To create modules, which will engender deeper understanding about indigenous beliefs and cultures to assist policy makers and Healthcare professionals to competently interact, diagnose and treat native peoples afflicted with chronic diseases.
- (3) To develop in-service training in diagnosis, treatment and referral, as well as certification and technologically facilitated support systems to better empower traditional healers as recognized partners in the struggle against disease, through utilization of hybrid best practices.

ABSTRACTS Participants wishing to present papers at the conference are requested to submit abstracts via email not later than March 31, 2006. All abstracts should be typewritten in English in 1.5 line spacing with font of 12-point size. Text should not exceed 500 words. The full text of all presentations must be submitted to us in Microsoft Word Format not later than May 31, 2006. Authors should indicate their full names, addresses, and the organizations they are affiliated with. If paper relates to research, they should indicate where the research was conducted. They should also indicate how they intend to make presentations and audio/visual requirements.

Respectfully submitted by:

Elyse Chadwick and Ama Sabah