

NIH DIVERSITY COUNCIL

National Institutes of Health

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services



February 20, 2008

NEI Conference Room, Bldg 31, 6A35
Bethesda, MD

Attendance:

Members present

Aviles-Mendoza, Guillermo
Collins, Dexter
D'Ascoli, Nicholas
Elwood, William (Chairman)
France, Michele
Gardner, Deborah
Haley, Jennifer
Huss, Linda
James, Fred
Murthy, Mahadev (via phone)
Robertson, Paul
Spencer, Jane
Valin, Tim
Vallant, Molly (via phone)
White, Jenea
Whitley, Alfred
Wongsam-Nollinger, Andrea
Yang, Shen

Ex-Officio Members present

Butler, Sharrell
Oliver, Pamela

Minutes

The Diversity Council meeting was called to order by Dr. Bill Elwood at 2:35 pm.

A request for feedback regarding the formatting of the minutes was made by Jennifer to the Council.

1. "A Time for Diversity"
 - a. Discussion on location and possible date for the event. The council agreed to have the Art of Diversity and the Science of Diversity at the same location. Locations included Natcher, Bldg. 45 or Lipsett Auditorium in Clinical Center with the Atrium to be used for the Art display. The date for the event will be December 3, 2008. Jennifer will check on the availability.

- b. "Art of Diversity" – Jane was working on coordinating with the Clinical Center and the Children's Inn to have the children do artwork on what diversity looks like or mean to them. Discussion from the committee on how we would present to the children. A mutual agreement was made to develop a plain language definition of diversity for the children. Sharrell Butler brought up "Take Your Child to Work Day" and the Poster Session as a means also to getting artwork from children. Tim Valin suggested that NLM would include a poster session in the plan events from NLM on that day. Pam and Jennifer agreed to take on the Art of Diversity project and develop a proposal to present to the committee in March.
 - c. Pam Oliver will find out if there is an official HHS National Diversity Theme.
- 2. Deaf/ASL Outreach - Jane Spencer provided a brief update on her plans to develop Deaf/ASL Outreach with Gallaudet (American Sign Language course for NIH staff). She is currently working with Gallaudet to maybe have students come and teach a workshop. The council liked the idea. Molly commented on how NIEHS had a similar program that was taught by the local community college. In the meantime Jane will share with the committee a program she teaches that has a video and e-book with disc. She will plan to bring at next meeting.
- 3. Follow up on Larry's vision of July Diversity Day event to share with Council. Bill and Richard Medina need to revisit activity w/Larry. Clarification as to what type of event i.e. "county fair" style, time, and place. (July in bldg. 31 patio). The committee agreed that the Council should be linked to this event and all events in the future that deal with diversity.
- 4. Question from Jane Spencer regarding what type of things do the committee work on besides events. Bill mentioned the Outreach and Recruitment Project that was done for Dr. Gottesman. The council suggested that we revisit Dr. Gottesman to see if there is any follow-up that need to be taken by the committee like mentorship. The committee than suggested that we look at the types of mentoring throughout the NIH. Sharrell gave possibilities of brown bag sessions. Guillermo suggested a small committee to investigate plausibility of having info sessions, series to answer --how to get, and use mentors/ Inventory of NIH programs on Mentoring, retention / Or coaching. Mahadev offered to have someone from NIA mentoring program speak to Council. Pam will research what is available at the NIH and then the committee will decide how to approach. Arlyn suggested it be added to the April agenda.

5. Question also raised as to what is the Councils alignment with OEODM?
A review of the bylaws and charter was suggested as well as the letter from Dr. Kingston stating the Councils Reporting Structure. Jennifer will give each member a copy to discuss at next meeting. Andrea will discuss previous history from subcommittee work on the charter.

6. Pam Oliver stated that the Diversity Councils' website is being updated and reviewed by Richard Medina and if the committee had any suggestions please forward to Richard, Jennifer or herself. An email reminder will be sent to council to gather their IC's diversity activities for the calendar.

7. Diversity training/certification for council members was discussed. Also out of this discussion a suggestion to receive some of the Diversity Councils best practices for diversity will be developed by Pam.

8. Next Meeting will be March 19, 2008.

Bill called meeting adjournment at 4:15.