

 U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
Office of Minority Health [www.minorityhealth.hhs.gov](http://www.minorityhealth.hhs.gov)

## The Office of Minority Health: Priorities and Partnerships

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Office of Minority Health  
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services*

  **Nebraska Department of Health & Human Services**  
Kearney, NE  
April 18, 2018

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## Presentation Outline

- HHS Update and Overview of OMH
- Programmatic Overview of Activities
- Region VII Highlights
- National Partnership for Action Overview
- OMH Resource Center Overview of Activities

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## Overview and Update

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### The Report of the Secretary's Task Force on Black and Minority Health (Heckler Report)



In 1985, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) released a landmark report, the **Report of the Secretary's Task Force on Black and Minority Health** (Heckler Report). It documented the existence of health disparities among racial and ethnic minorities in the United States and called such disparities "an affront both to our ideals and to the ongoing genius of American medicine." The Office of Minority Health was created in 1986 as one of the most significant outcomes of the Heckler Report.

*"Despite the unprecedented explosion in scientific knowledge and the phenomenal capacity of medicine to diagnose, treat and cure disease, Blacks, Hispanics, Native American Indians and those of Asian/Pacific Islander Heritage have not benefited fully or equitably from the fruits of science or from those systems responsible for translating and using health sciences technology."*

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### The Case for Eliminating Health Disparities



30 Years of Advancing Health Equity | The Heckler Report: A Force for Ending Health Disparities in America

**Big Six** (1) Cancer, (2) Cardiovascular disease and stroke, (3) Chemical dependency, measured by deaths due to cirrhosis, (4) Diabetes, (5) Homicide and accidents (unintentional injuries), (6) Infant mortality

**Eight recommendations** (1) Outreach to disseminate health information; (2) Patient education and provider awareness, responsive to cultural needs; (3) Access, delivery, and financing of health services; (4) Health professions development; (5) Cooperative efforts federal and non-federal sector; (6) Technical assistance to communities; (7) Data development; (8) Research agenda

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### The Office of Minority Health (OMH)

**OMH Mission**  
To improve the health of racial and ethnic minority populations through the development of health policies and programs that will help eliminate health disparities.

**OMH Functions**



Statutory Authority:  
Public Health Service Act §1707  
[\(42 U.S.C. §300u-6\)](#)

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### HHS Secretary Alex Azar

- Sworn in as Secretary of Health and Human Services on Jan. 29, 2018
- Has worked in both the public and private sectors, as an attorney and in senior leadership roles focused on advancing healthcare reform, research and innovation
- From 2001 to 2007, served at HHS – first as General Counsel (2001–2005) and then as Deputy Secretary
- Served as a clerk for U.S. Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia




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### ADM Brett P. Giroir, M.D. Assistant Secretary for Health (ASH)

- Pediatric critical care physician sworn in as ASH on February 15, 2018
- Leads development of HHS-wide public health policy recommendations
- Oversees 11 core public health offices, including the Office of the Surgeon General and the U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps
- Also oversees three Presidential and 11 Secretarial advisory committees




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### Deputy Assistant Secretary for Minority Health & Director Office of Minority Health



Dr. Matthew Lin

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## A New OMH Vision

*To move the nation forward in reducing disparities in health by putting people and communities at the center of our efforts, with a focus on partnerships and prevention*

HHS has been a leader in reducing health disparities and over the years the country has seen significant improvement

Additional work still needs to be done to improve the health of our communities, and by focusing on prevention, OMH is putting people and communities at the center of its work

All of us have a role to play in improving the health of our communities and OMH is enlisting the support of individuals, and community- and faith-based organizations throughout the country to help promote prevention

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## OMH FY2018 - FY2019 Policy and Program Priorities

1. Opioid Crisis
2. Childhood Obesity and Diabetes
3. Viral Hepatitis
4. HIV
5. Sickle Cell Disease
6. Suicide Prevention, Serious Mental Illness & Mental Health
7. Chronic Disease Prevention & Health Promotion – CVD, Diabetes
8. Workforce Development

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## Programmatic Overview of Activities

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### OMH Grant Programs



American Indian/Alaska Native Health Equity Initiative



National Workforce Diversity Pipeline Program

[www.minorityhealth.hhs.gov](http://www.minorityhealth.hhs.gov)

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### American Indian & Alaska Native Health Research Advisory Council (HRAC)

- HRAC represents the 12 IHS service areas.
- The HRAC advises the Department on tribal health research.
- OMH supports the HRAC and coordinates efforts across HHS to disseminate and implement HRAC recommendations on AI/AN health research policy.
- <http://www.minorityhealth.hhs.gov/hrac/>

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### Promotores de Salud Steering Committee



- Promotes the engagement of promotores to support health education, prevention efforts and access to healthcare
- Steering Committee consists of 15 members

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### Health Disparities Tool

Easy way to find health disparities data related to the Healthy People 2020 objectives for the Leading Health Indicators (LHIs).



**HEALTHY PEOPLE 2020 HEALTH DISPARITIES DATA WIDGET**

**FEATURES**

- View charts and graphs of disparities data at your fingertips.
- Sort by disparity type—including disability, education, income, location, race and ethnicity, and sex
- Leading Health Indicator
- Visit [minorityhealth.gov](http://minorityhealth.gov) to add the widget to your website.

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### American Indian & Alaska Native Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System Oversample Project



- OMH partnership with the CDC
- Oversample of AI/AN in the 2017 BRFSS
- Eleven states will be participating which include: Alaska, Arizona, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Carolina, North Dakota, South Dakota, Oklahoma, and Wisconsin
- The data will provide a population view of the health status of American Indian communities

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- Data collection ended December 2017
- Great Plains Tribal Epi Center can request data when it becomes available sometime in late 2018/early 2019



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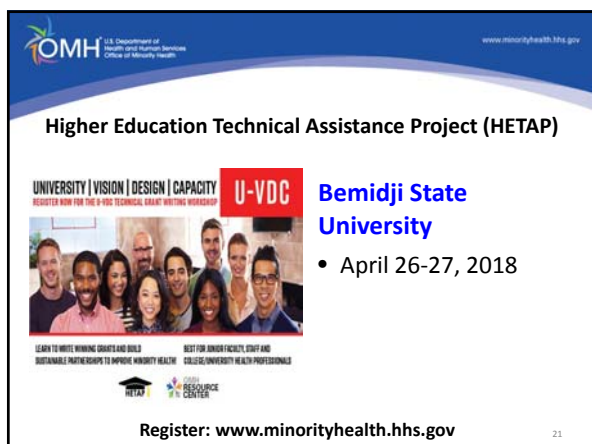
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 NATIONAL MINORITY HEALTH MONTH  
Partnering for Health Equity | April 2018

**Health Equity Thunderclap (April 2)**  
**Dr. Lin OMH Partner Site Visit (April 5)**  
**Partnering for Health Equity Event: (April 17, 2018)**  
*Humphrey Building Great Hall*  
**NMHHM18 Twitter Chat (April 25)**  
**NMHHM Webinar Series (Month-long)**  
**NMHHM18 Resources Available at [minorityhealth.hhs.gov](http://minorityhealth.hhs.gov)**

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OMH Region VII  
Highlights

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**Violence Prevention Series**

- *Violence is a Public Health Issue – Town Hall Meeting July 19, 2017*
- Panelists from *Nebraska Empowerment Network Collaborative & Nebraska Urban Indian Health Coalition*
- Future webinar series under development



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### “Catalyst for Opportunity”

- Public Health Meeting – September 28-29, 2017
- Enhance OASH Region VII response to critical health issues
- Heartland RHEC Heart Disease Report was presented by Josie Rodriguez



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### Public Health Webinar Series

Tentative Schedule

- Heart Health – February 1<sup>st</sup>
- Mental Health – May
- Women’s Health – May
- HIV/AIDS – June
- Obesity – September
- Violence – October
- Breastfeeding - November



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### HHS/IHS Immunization Project

- Collaborative effort with IHS and regional offices
- Health Communication efforts to increase immunization rates
- Evaluation of PSAs targeting Native Americans



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**Walgreens/HHS Influenza Voucher Initiative**

Region VII Redemptions

- 2016-17: 9,659
- 2017-18: 2,920 (to date)

Influenza Season	Free Influenza Vaccinations
2016-2017	342,326
2015-2016	335,092
2014-2015	326,323
2013-2014	252,538
2012-2013	168,681
2011-2012	52,851
2010-2011	4,395

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**OMH State Partnership Initiative to Address Health Disparities (SPI)**

- Nebraska awarded 5-year grant in August 2015
- Goal to reduce A1c level of American Indians in Thurston County diagnosed with diabetes

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**Overview of the National Partnership for Action to End Health Disparities**



**NATIONAL PARTNERSHIP FOR ACTION**  
to End Health Disparities

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## NPA Mission and Goals

*Mission: Increase the effectiveness of programs that target the elimination of health disparities through the coordination of partners, leaders, and stakeholders committed to action and by bringing attention to the social determinants of health.*

**NPA Goals**

- 1) Increase **awareness** of health disparities
- 2) Strengthen and broaden **leadership** for addressing health disparities
- 3) Strengthen the **health system** and improve **life experience** for the underserved
- 4) Improve **cultural and linguistic competency** and diversity of the health-related workforce
- 5) Improve **data** availability and coordination, and share **research and evaluation** outcomes

**Principles Guiding Targeted Action**

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## NPA Priority Areas

Key Priorities	Emerging Areas of Interest
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Healthcare access and affordability</li> <li>Integrate health equity in policies and programs</li> <li>Youth education and engagement to prepare the next generation of health leaders</li> <li>Implement the National Standards for Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services in Health and Health Care (National CLAS Standards)</li> <li>Strengthen the community health worker (CHWs) workforce, which reduces overall healthcare costs while providing compassionate care</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Opioid Abuse</li> <li>Mental/Behavioral Health</li> <li>Rural health</li> <li>AI/AN Health</li> </ul>

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## National Partnership for Action (NPA) Implementation Structure

The **FINET** is comprised of 12 federal agencies.

**SOMHs** serve as conduits between RHECs and state and local coalitions. They lead the effort to align state-level health equity plans with NPA goals.

**RHECs** are 10 non-federal coalitions geographically analogous to HHS regions. Representatives include volunteer members from various sectors (academia, CBOs, FBOs, state health depts)

**National Partners** leverage resources and expand reach and network (National Indian Health Board, National Conference of State Legislatures, Association of State and Territorial Health Officials, and DentQuest).

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### National Partner: ASTHO

- 2017-2018 NPA Activities
  - Supported CT Department of Public Health to provide technical assistance to finalize a statewide health equity strategic plan
  - Facilitated a discussion among staff and external stakeholders at the South Carolina Department of Public Health to update the existing strategic plan and develop a State Health Improvement Plan
  - Created a guide for states to incorporate health equity into funding opportunity announcements (FOA) (to be published later this year)
  - Created a guide for state health departments on engaging different sectors in health equity initiatives (to be published later this year)

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### National Partner: National Indian Health Board

- Partnership to support the integration of social determinants of health framework/equity lens in tribal public health department strategic planning processes
  - Environmental Scan: Status of public health accreditation which will be disseminated in a White Paper
  - Utilization of Community Health Representatives: Develop and disseminate an online toolkit for CHRs

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### American Indian and Alaska Native NPA Caucus

- 2018 Priorities:
  - Substance Abuse
  - Mental Health
- AI/AN Behavioral Health Webinar Series:
  - 1/25/2018 – Tackling the Opioid Epidemic in the Chickasaw Nation
  - 9/20/2017 – Project Venture: Positive Youth Development for AI/AN Youth
  - 5/18/2017 – The Hope Squad Program: Addressing Suicide Prevention & Untreated Mental Illness
  - 4/26/2017 – The National Tribal Behavioral Health Agenda
- Blog Posts:
  - 6/8/2017 – Unintentional Injuries are a Leading Cause of Death for American Indian and Alaska Native Populations

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## Regional Health Equity Councils (RHECs)

- The RHECs are intended to:
  - Provide a forum for multi-sector planning, collaboration, and action to address health disparities within the context of the SDH
  - Identify priority issues most relevant to the populations in their regions and define solutions
- There are 10 non-federal, multi-sector, regional health equity coalitions that are geographically analogous to the 10 HHS regions.
  - **Leslie Marsh, Chief Executive Officer, Lexington Regional Health Center**  
Email: [lmars@lexrhc.org](mailto:lmars@lexrhc.org)
  - **Neil S. MacNaughton, Associate Professor/Assistant Department Head, Department of Nursing, University of Dubuque**  
Email: [NMacNaughton@dbq.edu](mailto:NMacNaughton@dbq.edu)

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## Heartland Regional Health Equity Council (RHEC VII)

**The Heartland RHEC's 2017 accomplishments include:**

- Health Equity Resource Guide
- Memoranda of understanding (MOUs) with Wichita State University, College of Health Professions and HRSA Region VII Midwestern Public Health Training Center
- Health Equity Committee survey of RHEC members

**The Heartland RHEC's ongoing work includes:**

- Conducting the next phase of the health equity survey
- Signing the MOU with the National Rural Health Association
- Exploring potential MOUs with the American Hospital Association, Primary Care Physicians, and American Medical Association

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## OMHRC Overview of Activities

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### OMH Resource Center (OMHRC)

- The nation's largest repository of information on the health of minority populations in the U.S. and its territories
- Services available include:
  - Literature Searches
  - Funding Searches
  - Data/Statistics
  - Capacity Building
  - Consumer Materials
  - Technical Assistance
  - E-Newsletters
  - Social Media

Phone: 301-251-1797  
Toll-Free 800-444-6472  
Monday through Friday 9am-5pm EST  
[info@minorityhealth.hhs.gov](mailto:info@minorityhealth.hhs.gov)



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 [@MinorityHealth](https://twitter.com/MinorityHealth) (English); [@SaluddeMinorias](https://twitter.com/SaluddeMinorias) (Spanish)

 [Office of Minority Health](https://www.facebook.com/OfficeofMinorityHealth)

 [@officeofminorityhealth](https://www.instagram.com/officeofminorityhealth)

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