

Minutes of the NJSNCC Membership Meeting
DAO Management Consulting Services, Inc.
Jersey City, N.J.

May 21, 2013

Present: Rebecca Benjamin (DoAS/DHS), Helen Dao (Dao Management Consulting), Shellyann Dacres (The Boggs Center/Training & Consultation), Liz Fortunato (DHS), Bill Gaventa (The Boggs Center/UMDNJ-RWJ Medical School), Janet Gwiazda (DHS), Shakira Linzey (NJEI System/CJFHC), Robert Like (Center for Healthy Families & Cultural Diversity/UMDNJ-RWJ Medical School), Nicholas Montalto (Diversity Dynamics, LLC), Judith Morales (Perinatal Addictions @ JC & Associates), Maricarmen Rodriguez (Kean University/Dept of Counseling), Stephanie Rodriguez (Amerigroup), Sophia Rossovsky (Diversity Experts, Inc.), Nestor Smith (Family Service Asociation), Zenaida Steinhauer (DOH), Linda Tondow (American Conference on Diversity), Jagdish Vasudev (United Way of Central Jersey), Maritza Williams (Disability Rights, N.J.).

Introductions:

Members briefly introduced themselves. There were several new members at the meeting. It was noted that this was Bill Gaventa's last meeting with the group. Thanks were given to Helen Dao for hosting today's meeting.

Presentations:

1. American Conference on Diversity

Renee Ayers from the American Conference on Diversity did a presentation about their agency. Renee is the Director of Professional Services and is involved in multicultural education, trainings, and program development. The agency operates 8 chapters in New Jersey, with programs and services focused on workplace diversity and a mission of creating a more inclusive society. The agency was formerly known as the National Conference on Christians and Jews (NCCJ). They are celebrating their 65th anniversary this year. A Calendar of Events was provided, creating an awareness of the diverse religions and ethnic groups that live in New Jersey.

The agency is well equipped to help diverse groups in both school and community settings, including immigrant families, looking at their needs, disparities that exist in the workplace and other issues, and helping develop curricula that address these needs and empower community leaders.

The ACD has multiple partnerships and support from the business sector, with initiatives and programs targetting health disparities on both economic & social aspects. An example is their cultural competency training, offered to healthcare providers with funding from the Horizon Foundation for New Jersey.

Their community outreach activities include Humanitarian Awards for individuals in the State and in each Chapter, recognizing outstanding individuals, businesses, organizations and students whose work contribute to the promotion and support of diversity throughout New Jersey and their respective

communities. Funds raised through the annual event helps support the American Conference on Diversity's Youth Leadership Institute & Health Disparities Initiative, while the Chapter Awards help support education programs.

Other activities include Interfaith Dialogue, Youth Leadership Institute, & Health Research, as well as other programs in education, providing teachers, administrators and counselors in building more inclusive schools.

2. Office of Minority Health's (OMH's) CLAS Standards

Dr. Robert Like discussed the enhanced National CLAS (Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services) Standards which are intended to advance health equity, improve quality, and eliminate health care disparities by providing a blueprint for individuals and health care organizations to implement culturally and linguistically appropriate services.

The Standards were issued by the US Department of Health and Human Services' (HHS) Office of Minority Health to correct inequities that currently exist in the provision of health care services and to make these services more responsive to the individual needs of all patients/consumers. The ultimate goal is to eliminate racial and ethnic disparities and improve the health of all Americans.

Copies of the enhanced CLAS Standards were distributed to members present.

Election of Officers

Nomination ballots were sent to members electronically, with names of nominees and their short biodata attached. Completed ballots were returned to Zenaida Steinhauer. Members present who were not able to vote electronically were able to cast their ballots at the meeting. The ballots were retallied and the results of the election were announced by Election Committee members Jag Vasudev & Zenaida Steinhauer. The winners for the new Leadership Team were:

Chair: Robert Like

Vice Chair: Sophia Rossovsky

Treasurer: Nicholas Montalto

Secretary: Janet Gwiazda

Shellyann Dacres is replacing Bill Gaventa as the listserv administrator, while Zenaida Steinhauer will remain as the website coordinator. The website is hosted by the Department of Health.

Meet the new NJSNCC Leadership Team:



Left to right: Shellyann Dacres (listserv Administrator), Zenaida Steinhauer (Website Coordinator), Janet Gwiazda (Secretary), Sophia Rossovsky (Vice-chair), Robert Like (Chair), and Nick Montalto (Treasurer).

Presentation of Plaque of Appreciation

Members presented a plaque to outgoing de facto chair, Bill Gaventa. The plaque of appreciation was given by the Network members in appreciation of Bill's leadership, wisdom, time and dedication to the NJ Statewide Network for Cultural Competence for the last 11 years. Bill thanked the Network members for the unexpected honor.



Bill (on far left), receiving the Plaque of Appreciation presented by the new chair, Bob Like, with Zenaida Steinhauer and Nick Montalto.

Report on Fiscal Agent

Jag Vasudev reported on the progress with the transition of funds from United Way of Central Jersey to another non-profit agency. The group approved a resolution to enter into an agreement with the Central Jersey Family Health Consortium to hold the funds of the Network pending the negotiation of an agreement covering fees for handling receipts and disbursements for our next conference. A committee of three people consisting of Nick Montalto, Nestor Smith and Diana Autin was appointed to negotiate the agreement.

Next Steps for NJSNCC

Bob Like suggested that the Leadership Team hold a conference call prior to the next quarterly meeting which will hopefully take place in August (date to be determined). Previous pending items will be discussed at the quarterly meeting, including other items that will come up at the call. Janet Gwiazda volunteered to sponsor the next meeting at the NJ Department of Human Services.

The meeting ended at 3:00 p.m.

Submitted by:

Zenaida D. Steinhauer

See more photos below.

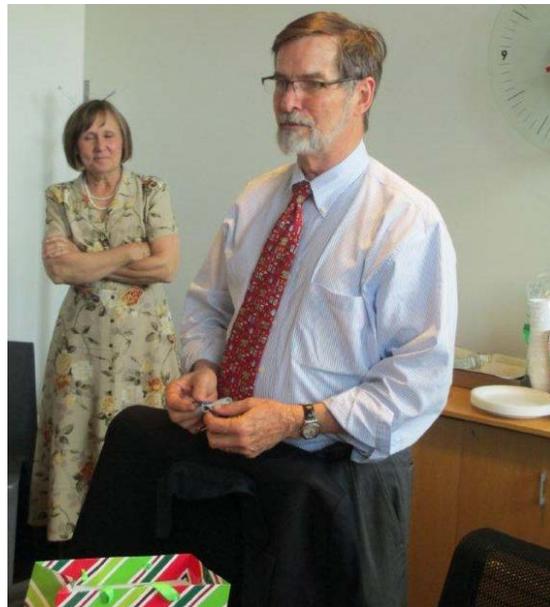
Photo Gallery



Renee Ayers from the American Conference on Diversity.



Diana Autin from SPAN giving her well wishes.



Bill Gaventa bidding his last farewell to Network members. Our best wishes to you, Bill !