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NOMHE PROGRAM MANAGER REPORT
Presented to NOMHE Advisory Committee
August 18, 2020

COVID-19 RESPONSIVENESS FOCUS

POLICY & PROGRAMMING

- **Proclamation Recognizing Racism as a Public Health Crisis**

In recognition of the interlocking injustices brought to a head by COVID's disproportionate impacts AND social injustices/civic activism. NOMHE, working through the Director's Office, was instrumental in Governor Sisolak's development of the Proclamation.

- Workgroup convened to develop state-level, anti-racism actions, initiatives
- Numerous Interviews Conducted

- **Nevada's COVID Response Team**

June 16th, NOMHE began meeting weekly with the Governor's Director of COVID Response Team (Caleb Cage). Initial coordination resulted in the provision of PPE for civic activists making peaceful protests possible without spiking positive COVID cases. Most recently, incorporated Laura Freed (Director of Administration) into discussions about acquiring/developing protocols to incorporate use of clear mask insert/face shields. As a result, the Director issued an August 11, 2020 memorandum to all Department Directors encouraging them to include clear mask/face shields into its PPE purchases and to post signage of its availability.

- Other sectors are encouraged to follow this state-focused action

- **Clinical Trial Diversification**

During the pandemic, under-representation of BIPOC community in research and trials has been magnified.

- Presentation via UNR's School of Community Health Sciences – Public Health Training Center entitled "**Can Diversified Trials Reduce Health Disparities**". In it I recounted NOMHE's teaming with the state's only black female owned firm conducting COVID research

- Engaged in vaccine awareness efforts. Working with OPHIE Immunize Nevada. NOMHE **conducted Listening Session and Post Session Survey on topic of Flu Hesitancy (results report attached)**. Sharing report with agencies engaged in topic.
- Revamped partnership with **All of Us** to a virtual platform. Multiple “virtual stops” to take place, beginning with late August date (in recognition of National Immunization Awareness Month). All of Us has new COVID-focused features to reveal, including the COPE Survey which tracks enrollee’s mental health during the pandemic.

DATA

- **Stratification Efforts to Include SOGI Demographics**

Because COVID responses are often data-driven, it is time to end SGM invisibility in data collection. It would be interesting to see if this action begins to decrease the often double-digit “OTHER” column results when people are asked to self-identify their demographic but feel invisible. Beginning the week of August 3, 2020 NV began collecting data on sexual orientation and gender identity as part of its expanded COVID case investigation effort. These questions have been added to the state’s investigation module.

- Prior to pandemic, workgroup (convened by DPBH – Regulatory and Planning Services) to develop LGBTQ+ Strategic Plan
- Teamed with **workgroup** (convened by Senator Spearman and led by Andre Wade) to produce background materials in support of BDR
- Conducted interview on topic

- **Vulnerability Mapping**

Working with state’s lead biostatistician to update the **Nevada Minority Health Report**. Goal is to move it from collection of disparity statistics to a tool containing maps of these disparity pockets and reflect trackable vulnerabilities by using CDC Vulnerability Index and convergence analysis.

ADVOCACY & WORKGROUPS

- **Deaf/Hard of Hearing Health Equity Alliance**

At the request of the AC’s Legislative Advisor, NOMHE began investigating and identifying means to address shortfalls (including dedicated educational options) that remain following her 80th Session Bill - SB 203. After approaching Deaf Centers of Nevada, Nevada Hands & Voices and the Commission For Persons Who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing for advocate / community input, the group formed the DHH Alliance to address broader goals including: closing (noneducational) service gaps; expanding (workplace, community-based) points of accessibility; placing the differently abled in decision-making positions; law enforcement sensitivity training

- This model has proven very effective and NOMHE is would be receptive to participating in such Health Equity Alliances across targeted populations.

- **Nevada Partners**

An organization that initially began in response to the hardships experienced by Las Vegans resulting from the Housing Crisis of the mid 2000s, it has become a recognized stable in the community. It is most notable for its Neighborhood Pillars Program featuring subject matter specific workgroups

- Joined its “Healthy Children, Families and Communities” Pillar

NEVADA MINORITY HEALTH EQUITY COALITION

- **CARES Funding of Outreach & Marketing Contract (RFP attached)**

The Coalition has received CARES funding to assess the impact of COVID-19 in at-risk communities (from SOGI, BIPOC and differently abled demographics) with high infection rates and to develop and conduct culturally competent education and outreach in these communities about COVID-19; contract tracing and case investigation; vaccine readiness/preparedness. The coalition anticipates funding 7-10 awards with a ceiling of \$10,000. Funding period is from September 1, 2020 – December 31, 2020.

- NOMHE anticipates obtaining an additional short-term, contractual hire funded by CARES dollars. The hire will focus on developing, promoting, implementing and evaluating the effectiveness of NOMHE’s COVID ToolKit. This hire will work closely with the Coalition on related activities.

OTHER REPORTS / WHITE PAPERS

- **Health Disparities in Nevada**

Created in July at the request of the legislature (**attached**). The briefing illustrated that the United Health Foundation which publishes the American Health Rankings Annual Report shows NV at 35th in the nation as of 2019 when considering factors such as chronic disease, community and environment, and clinical care.