

The health equity briefs

National Association of State Offices of Minority Health Newsletter



Vivian Lasley-Bibbs
President

WELCOME TO OUR INAUGURAL NEWSLETTER

Hello, NASOMH family. Summer is winding down, and I hope many of you were able to go on vacation; if not physically, then I hope you were able to take some time away for self-care. When addressing inequities and social injustices, we can feel the weight of it, which sometimes can seem quite heavy. But in the words of Ms. Maya Angelou, "And still I rise....." I applaud your continued dedication to addressing the root causes impacting health.

I could not be prouder of the work that our members have demonstrated as we mitigated COVID-19. Hopefully, we will use lessons learned in the wake of another pandemic, as well as stay abreast of current topics and issues in public health impacting our most vulnerable, under-resourced, underrepresented, and minority populations.

Many changes are happening at NASOMH. We have a new Executive Director, Ms. Veronica Halloway, former Chief of the Center for Minority Health Services for the Illinois Department of Public Health. A new student intern, Ms. Naw Pow, and we are seeking to hire a grants administrator to handle the grant funding that continues to come our way. We continue to be called on to provide our subject matter expertise in equity issues related to advancing policy, current Public Health Workforce, Cultural Competency, and webinars and podcasts related to racial and health equity. We could only continue to do this work with you, our members at the helm.

We hope you will find the information in the NEW NASOMH newsletter helpful. You may find a nugget or two to aid you in your work, or you may be able to provide valuable tips to your colleagues and peers by contributing yourself. If you are not a member, please consider joining NASOMH. It is a network where you can find support, peer-to-peer learning, resources, tools, grant opportunities, and potential collaborations within and outside the association. There is information in the newsletter on how to join and get connected immediately. I am looking forward to seeing many of you on our next membership call.

As I finish out this year, my charge to you is to continue to provide evidence-based, practical, valuable information, respond to emerging public health trends, and seek sustainable funding. Most of all, empower communities to embrace change in their local and or state health entities through policy and other system changes to improve their community's health."

SEPTEMBER 2023

Newsletter Highlights

Welcome to our
Inaugural Newsletter

In case you missed it..

What's happening at
NASOMH?

Meet the Team

Looking for Committee
members

Do you know your HHS
Regions?

September is/Resources . .

Membership and Dues

Our Mission

To promote and protect the health of racial/ethnic minority communities, tribal organizations and nations, by preventing disease and injury and assuring optimal health and well-being.

Our Vision

To provide leadership in transforming the health of racial/ethnic minority communities, tribal organizations and nations.



WHAT'S HAPPENING AT NASOMH?



At the Health Equity Summit in Atlanta, NASOMH board members, ASTHO and CDC partners, and some potential NASOMH members are featured. See if you can identify folks.

Over the last year, the NASOMH Board of Directors has been meeting regularly and working on a plan of action to grow our team, membership, and network and forge partnerships and alliances to support our mission and vision. In October, we will begin our membership blitz. We look forward to reaching out to all of you and sharing our plans for long-term engagement, growth, and sustainability of NASOMH and our membership.

In April, NASOMH held its general meeting during the Health Equity Summit in Atlanta. NASOMH had several activities at the summit, including a meet and greet for potential members and partners. We sponsored a healthy equity session that was well attended. We also held a video taping of COVID-19 vaccine partners sharing success stories. You can view the three developed videos featured on this page under "In case you missed it."

Funding from the National Epilepsy Foundation in 2021- 2022 allowed NASOMH to partner with the organization to promote and support Seizure First Aid training and resources and train the trainer programs to interested State Offices of Minority Health (SOMH) and their community partners.

NASOMH has partnered with the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO) for the past few years on several initiatives, including the Power of Partnerships. This partnership includes developing resources, building networks, providing subject matter expertise, and disseminating resources and webinar opportunities to our members.

NASOMH is also a member of the States Islands and Territories Health Equity Community of Practice (SITHE-COP). With funding through William Consulting LLC provided by the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), NASOMH's role is to render consultation and expertise to develop webinars and training on hot topics and evidence-based practices on health and health equity. NASOMH members and community partners benefit from the training. To see how you can get involved or to share your State or Community work, please email us at nasomh@gmail.org.



In case you missed it:

CHECKOUT THESE LINKS: NASOMH partnered with ASTHO to produce videos on vaccine equity and lessons learned from the COVID pandemic. See what seven of our states shared as lessons learned and best practices. We would love to share your state's successes too.

Bringing Community to the Table

Antoniette Holt, Indiana
Naisha Williams, Washington
Erica Sandoval, Oregon

Equity Approaches Learned from COVID-19

Vivian Lasley-Bibbs, Kentucky
Veronica Halloway, Illinois
Courtney Hayden, Kansas
Dr. Rohan Radhakrishana, California

STATE SPOTLIGHT:

California's Focus on Trust-Building

Dr. Rohan Radhakrishana, California



President: Vivian Lasley-Bibbs

Vivian is the Director of Disease Intervention Initiatives for the Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health (ASPPH). She is responsible for the disease intervention workforce initiatives, including activities supporting recruitment, training, retention, and Disease Intervention Specialist (DIS) certification. Before her role at ASPPH, Vivian served as the Director of the Office of Health Equity at the Kentucky Department for Public Health (KDPH), where during her tenure, she undertook diverse responsibilities, including racial and health equity training, state accreditation, curriculum development, and modernizing data visualization through an internal dashboard. She currently serves as President of the Health Equity Council (HEC) of the National Association of Chronic Disease Directors (NACDD) and the National Association of State Offices of Minority Health (NASOMH). She has presented as a subject matter expert at numerous state, local, and national conferences through workshops, panels, and posters to address health disparities and inequities related to the social determinants of health and the root causes driving health disparities.



Vice President: Antoinette M. Holt

Antoinette is currently the Director of the Office of Minority Health for the Indiana State Department of Health. Over a 22-year career, her work involves specialized knowledge of state government, public health, cultural competence, diversity, health equity, and minority health concerns and issues. Previously, she was the deputy director and epidemiologist for the Office of Minority Health and the Office of Cultural Diversity and Enrichment. Antoinette is considered an expert in her field and is often consulted and invited to provide valuable input on urgent matters that involve underserved communities within Indiana and the nation. Locally and nationally, Antoinette sits on several boards and committees. She is very involved within Region V Office of Minority Health initiatives and programs. She is the current Past President/ Vice-President of NASOMH. During her time off, she is committed to helping others. She enjoys volunteering at her local church and with other organizations. She enjoys and cherishes spending time with her family and friends.



Treasurer: Charlotte Wood

Charlotte serves as Director of the Office of Minority Health at the Tennessee Department of Health, where she has worked for seven years. Charlotte received her BA from Fisk University and MPH from Indiana University Bloomington. In her current role, Charlotte leads the Office of Minority Health and Disparities Elimination, which aims to improve health in racial, ethnic, and other underserved populations. Key priorities include integrating health equity across policies, building community capacity, partnership engagement, internal alignment, and performance monitoring. Under Charlotte's leadership, the Office strives to empower communities and eliminate disparities by addressing disproportionate disease burden among minority groups. She applies her passion and expertise in public health to advance health equity and optimal well-being for all Tennesseans.



Webmaster: Rudy Macklin

Rudy serves as Executive Director of the Governor's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports and the Bureau of Minority Health Access at the Louisiana Department of Health. In his 31-year tenure, Rudy has been vital in advancing statewide minority health policies, multilingual communications, workforce diversity, and public awareness. His dedication to culturally competent public health has significantly improved access and outcomes for minority populations across Louisiana over the past three decades. Rudy serves as the webmaster for NAMSHO, managing the organization's online presence and digital channels. In this position, Rudy oversees the NASOMH website, develops online content and communications, and implements technology initiatives. He leverages his expertise in web design, social media, and user engagement to advance NAMSHO's mission and expand its reach through the strategic use of digital platforms.



Executive Director: Veronica Halloway

Veronica serves as the new Executive Director. She is a driven and innovative public health leader with demonstrated success in planning, implementing, and evaluating complex programs and projects focused on minority, population, and global health. Veronica recently retired from the Illinois Department of Public Health, where she served as Chief of the Center for Minority Health Services for more than six years and oversaw over \$25 million in grant programs. Veronica is a confident communicator skilled in leading teams and collaborating with all levels of organizational members and stakeholders to address public health matters. She brings to NASOMH her passion for community involvement and strategic thinking, adept at streamlining processes, developing innovative approaches for community well-being and sustainability, problem-solving, conducting research, and producing solutions for public health benefits. Veronica holds a B.S. in Visual Arts, an M.A. in Communications from the University of Illinois, Springfield, and an M.A.S. in Population Health Management from Johns Hopkins University.



Chief Financial Officer: Lisa Stafford

With 30+ years of experience, Ms. Stafford embarked on her public service journey in 1984 as a High School Intern with the Ohio Department of Development. She later served seven years in the Ohio Army National Guard, specializing in Personnel Records. Working with prestigious entities like the Ohio Public Works Commission, Ohio Commission on Minority Health, and Ohio Department of Medicaid, Ms. Stafford boasts 25+ years in administrative and management roles. Handling contracts up to \$1 million and multi-million-dollar budgets, her expertise shines. In 2010, she founded How About That! Design and Consulting, starting with graphic design and expanding to assist nonprofits and small businesses. Her services span grant writing, branding, and financial management. Today, Ms. Stafford offers virtual admin support, hosts webinars, aids business branding, and writes grants. Her diverse skills include board development and client recognition. Beyond work, Ms. Stafford actively volunteers, co-founding the Hicks Harris Ferguson Multiple Myeloma Symposium and contributing to the Ohio Federation for Health Equity and Social Justice. She holds a degree in Organizational Leadership from Franklin University and a Public Administration graduate degree from Walden University. A proud mother, Ms. Stafford resides in Columbus, Ohio.



Intern: Naw Pow

Naw Pow is a first-generation college graduate pursuing a Master's in Public Health with an Epidemiology concentration at IUPUI. Passionate about improving health outcomes for underserved and minority communities through sustainable community organizing, Naw aims to have a positive generational impact. In her free time, she enjoys sports, cooking, drawing, and spending quality time with her family.

Secretary: Vacant

We're looking for an enthusiastic individual representing a state, territory, association, or organization to fill this spot. Please email nasomh@gmail.com if interested.

NASOMH is looking for Committee Members

AS NASOMH works to live up to its leadership role as an organization with knowledge and expertise in advancing health equity and eliminating health disparities, we need our collective experiences to drive this work. As part of a committee, you will have a vital role in leading NASOMH decisions and being part of governing and decision-making for a national organization. We envision that committee work will take, on average, two to four hours per month. Please look at your committee of interest below and contact nasomh@gmail.com.

Membership Committee: Responsible for increasing the number of individual, organizational, and institutional members of NASOMH and ensuring their retention.

Policy and Planning Committee: Responsible for the development and review of all NASOMH operational policies, strategies, plans, or other statutory requirements issued at the local, state, and national levels. The Committee will ensure that the operating policies, procedures, and strategies align with the purpose, vision, mission, goals, and guiding principles of NASOMH.

Executive Committee: Appoints the Executive Director and reviews the performance of the Executive Director.

Resources Development Committee: Responsible for identifying and soliciting diversified sources of revenue streams, including memberships, sponsorships, donations, gifts, grants, and entrepreneurial opportunities to fund the NASOMH mission endeavor.

Nominating Committee: Responsible for preparing a slate of nominees, seeking to preserve the diversity, geographic representation, and balance necessary to enable the NASOMH to provide policy guidance on the broad spectrum of minority health and health disparities issues.

Marketing and Publicity Committee: Responsible for addressing the many public relations, marketing, and communications activities that NASOMH must undertake to bring about awareness of NASOMH and the value that it adds to addressing minority health issues and challenges across the more significant local, state, and national communities. The Committee shall be responsible for developing, directing, and promoting all the marketing efforts and publicity awareness initiatives on behalf of NASOMH. A primary function of the Committee is to communicate the activities and events of NASOMH internally and to all external stakeholders.

Membership and Dues

NASOMH is committed to addressing health disparities among racial and ethnic minorities. By becoming a member, you support health equity policies, education, programs, and funding that seek to eliminate inequalities. Join NASOMH to amplify our collective efforts. To access the membership application, please scan the QR code.



NASOMH now accepts credit card payments for membership dues, and those who want to use this option can reach out to our CFO, Lisa Stafford, at nasomh02@gmail.com



DO YOU KNOW YOUR HHS REGION?

Click on the map to learn about the HHS Regions and find your HHS representative.



Resources

HHS Knowledge Center online library catalog provides access to the nation's largest repository of information on the health of minority populations within the United States and its territories. The collection includes more than 70,000 documents, books, journal articles, reports, and media related to the health status of racial and ethnic minority populations and access to consumer health materials in more than 40 languages.

THRIVE is the American Public Human Services Association's (APtISA) Learning Management System, a training hub for resources, innovation, and virtual Exchange, where you can access a wealth of educational materials and engage in virtual learning opportunities.

September is . . .

- [Baby Safety Month](#)
- [Blood Cancer Awareness Month](#)
- [Childhood Cancer Awareness Month](#)
- [Food Safety Awareness Month](#)
- [Sexual Health Awareness Month](#)
- [Suicide Prevention Awareness Month](#)
- [World Alzheimer's Month](#)
- [National Sickle Cell Awareness Month](#)
- [Prostate Cancer Awareness Month](#)