



HCFANY's Racial & Ethnic Disparities Task Force

2011-12 Priorities

Who we are:

Health Care For All New York (HCFANY) is a statewide coalition of over 100 organizations committed to winning quality, affordable health coverage for all New Yorkers. We strive to bring consumer voices to the policy conversation, ensuring that real consumer concerns are reflected.

HCFANY's Racial & Ethnic Disparities Task Force is a sub-project of HCFANY which guides our work involving health equity.

Current members of the Task Force include:

- Citizen Action of NY
- Community Service Society
- Committee of Interns and Residents/SEIU
- Family Planning Advocates of NYS
- Health Education Project—Binghamton, Buffalo, Hudson Valley & Syracuse branches.
- Hudson-Mohawk AHEC
- Interfaith Impact of NYS
- Manhattan-Staten Island AHEC
- Metro Justice
- Metro NY Health Care for All
- New York Immigration Coalition
- NYS Association of Alcoholism & Substance Abuse Providers
- New Yorkers for Accessible Health Coverage/Center for the Independence of the Disabled-NY
- New York Lawyers for the Public Interest
- Orange Regional Medical Center
- Upper Hudson Planned Parenthood

Priorities for 2011-2012

This year, HCFANY's Racial & Ethnic Disparities Task Force will be focusing work around the following priorities:

- **Promoting language access in health coverage:** In 2009, the NY Attorney General (AG) announced a landmark settlement with New York's largest pharmacy chains, like Duane Reade, CVS, and Rite Aid, requiring them to provide free translation of medicine labels. The NYC Council also passed legislation to guarantee interpretation in all NYC pharmacies.

However, state policymakers still need to adopt statewide legislation to require what was outlined in the AG settlement. In addition, New York should adopt a statewide standardization of medication labels, to help streamline translations.

Further, HCFANY recommends that a statewide policy be issued to require that all state agencies provide language assistance services to limited English proficient individuals, including necessary interpreter services and the translation of frequently used forms and documents.

- **Requiring uniform data collection and reporting:** Reliable data is the key to identifying disparities and designing targeted quality improvement interventions. New York does not currently require all health care providers to collect and report quality of care data stratified by race, ethnicity, and other background information.

While some providers do collect this data, it is not standardized throughout the state. This can make it difficult to compare across entities. In addition,

data collected is generally not publicly reported.

New York should require uniform collection and public reporting of data stratified by race, ethnicity, disability status, gender, sexual orientation, and language spoken throughout the state by all public and private health plans, hospitals, and other health care institutions

- **Promoting cultural competency training for medical professionals:** A lack of culturally and linguistically appropriate services leads to poor quality of care and health disparities. HCFANY would support a bill that: 1) requires at least 8 hours of cultural competency training for medical professionals; 2) includes a minimum definition of cultural competency; 3) includes specific accreditation requirements for cultural competency courses; 4) clearly defines acceptable reasons for waivers; 5) includes penalties for reinstating physician licenses for non-compliance; 6) incorporates cultural competency into the medical school curriculum.
- **Promoting Community Health Centers:** As part of ACA implementation, we support the development and expansion of community health centers in marginalized and underserved communities. We also want to ensure that such development and expansion provides transparent processes, engages community members and providers, supports a workforce expansion that is racially and ethnically diverse, and improves local health care systems.

To learn more, or to join HCFANY, visit us on the web at www.hcfany.org



HCFANY'S RACIAL/ETHNIC HEALTH CARE DISPARITIES TASK FORCE

The goals of the task force are to:

- Develop, promote, and implement policies that reduce racial and ethnic health disparities
- Increase knowledge and support for health equity policy among decision makers
- Educate media and public audiences about the root causes of racial and ethnic disparities
- Connect diverse community members to policy making and advocacy activities

Yes, please sign us up to be a participant in HCFANY's Health Disparities Task Force. (By signing this document, your group will be joining the Task Force ONLY. To join HCFANY, visit us at www.hcfany.org)

Name: _____

Organization: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Address: _____

Organization's Website: _____

PLEASE RETURN COMPLETED FORM TO CALBANETTI@CITIZENACTIONNY.ORG
OR FAX TO 518.465.2890

Health Care For All New York (HCFANY) organizes around a set of "10 Standards for Quality, Affordable Health Care" which all members organizations make a commitment to promoting in the health care arena. These standards are used as basic guidelines for HCFANY to weigh-in on policy issues and to mobilize around. By organizing around these "10 Standards," HCFANY has been able to attract a diverse and dynamic membership.

To read HCFANY's "10 Standards," see a list of HCFANY's member organizations, read our full legislative agenda for this year, or to join HCFANY, visit us on the web at:

www.hcfany.org