

THE UNITED STATES COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS

PRESS RELEASE

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Illinois State Advisory Committee to Hold Meeting Examining Access to Affordable and Nutritious Food, and Language Barriers to Healthcare

CHICAGO, IL – The Illinois State Advisory Committee to the U. S. Commission on Civil Rights will conduct a fact finding meeting on August 11, 2010 examining access to affordable and nutritious food in certain areas (areas sometimes dubbed “food deserts”), and language barriers in healthcare. These issues may be two contributing factors to health disparities in Chicago.

The meeting will be held at the National Museum of Mexican Art, 1852 West 19th Street, Chicago, Illinois, from 9:30 a.m. until 5:00 pm CDT. The meeting agenda follows this announcement.

Among the 25 panelists scheduled to participate at the meeting are Dr. Damon Arnold of the Illinois Department of Public Health, Dr. Monica Peek of the University of Chicago, Erika Allen of Growing Power, Jose Munoz of the Chicago Department of Public Health, Esther Sciammarella of the Chicago Hispanic Health Coalition, and Candace King of the DuPage Federation of Human Service Reform.

The U. S. Commission on Civil Rights is an independent, bipartisan federal agency that conducts research and advises the President and Congress on civil rights issues. Its members, appointed by the President and Congress, are Chairman Gerald A. Reynolds, Vice Chair Abigail Thernstrom, and Commissioners Todd Gaziano, Gail Heriot, Peter N. Kirsanow, Arlan D. Melendez, Ashley Taylor, Jr., and Michael Yaki. Martin Dannenfelser is the staff director.

Congress has directed the Commission to establish state advisory committees (SACs) in all 50 states and the District of Columbia, whose members serve without compensation. The SACs’ reports to the Commission are wholly independent, and are reviewed by Commission staff only for legal and procedural compliance with Commission policies and procedures. SAC reports are not subject to Commission approval, fact-checking or policy changes.

Members of the Illinois Advisory Committee are Chair Marty Castro, Barbara Abrajano, Nancy Andrade, David Baker, Sunny Chico, Yvonne Coleman, Louis Goldstein, Sandra Jackson, Bishop Demetrios of Mokissos, Herbert Martin, John Mauck, Kamran Memon, Gordon Quinn, Cynthia Shawamreh, Betsy Shuman-Moore, Anthony Sisneros, Lee Walker, and Farhan Younus.

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AGENDA

FACTFINDING MEETING OF THE ILLINOIS STATE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, August 11, 2010

National Museum of Mexican Art
1852 West 19th Street
Chicago, IL 60608

Introductions and Background to Health Disparities Project

9:00 a.m. to 9:15 a.m.

Marty Castro, Chair, Illinois State Advisory Committee

Food Desert Panels

Panel 1

9:15 a.m. to 10:20 a.m.

Damon Arnold, Director, Illinois Department of Public Health

Maaria Mozaffar, Chair, Fresh Food Fund Taskforce

Jim Bloyd, Regional Health Officer, Cook County Department of Public Health

Joseph Harrington, Assistant Commissioner, Chicago Department of Public Health

Alderman Freddrenna Lyle, City of Chicago Sixth Ward

Panel 2

10:30 a.m. to 11:20 a.m.

Daniel Block, Coordinator, Fredrick Blum Neighborhood Assistance Center, Chicago State University

Angela Odoms-Young, Assistant Professor, Department of Kinesiology and Nutrition, University of Illinois at Chicago

Monica Peek, Assistant Professor of Medicine, Section of General Internal Medicine, The University of Chicago

Tonya Roberson, Project Manager, Improving Diabetes Care and Outcomes on Chicago's South Side, Section of Internal Medicine, University of Chicago

Panel 3

11:30 a.m. to 12:20 p.m.

Erika Allen, Chicago Projects Manager, Growing Power

Malik Nevels, Executive Director, Illinois African American Coalition for Prevention

Kathleen Duffy, Board member, Dill Pickle Food Co-op

Lunch

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12:20 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Language Barriers Panels

Panel 1

1:30 p.m. to 2:20 p.m.

Elizabeth Jacobs, Associate Professor of Medicine, Cook County Hospital & Rush University Medical Center
Julie Yonek, Research Associate/Project Director, Center for Healthcare Equity Institute for Healthcare Studies, Northwestern University
Grace Hou, Assistant Secretary, Illinois Department of Human Services
Jose Munoz, Deputy Commissioner, Chicago Department of Public Health
Arturo Garcia, Supervisory, HIPAA Team Leader, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office of Civil Rights (not confirmed)

Panel 2

2:30 p.m. to 3:20 p.m.

Layla P. Suleiman Gonzalez, Illinois Department of Human Services
Mary Lebold, Executive Director, Chicago Bilingual Nursing Consortium
Karin Ruschke, President and Owner, International Language Services, Inc.
Esther Sciammarella, Director, Chicago Hispanic Health Coalition

Panel 3

3:30 p.m. to 4:20 p.m.

Linda Coronado
Carmen Velasquez, Executive Director, Alivio Medical Center
Mireya Vera, Director of Interpreter and Community Services, Westlake Hospital
Candace King, Executive Director, DuPage Federation on Human Services Reform

Open Session

4:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Adjournment

5:00 p.m.