



NIH UNITE initiative

N Committee Update

June 10, 2022

N Committee Charge

To address long-standing health disparities and issues related to minority health and advance health equity (HD/MH/HE) in the United States by ensuring NIH-wide transparency, accountability and sustainability in marshaling resources for HD/MH/HE research.

N Committee: Priorities

Coordinated Support for HE Research

- **Achieve equitable support for HD/MH/HE research to measurably reduce health inequities**
- **Progress and Accomplishments**
 - **Common Fund Transformative Health Disparities Research Initiative**
 - 2 FY21 Common Fund FOAs → robust application response with 11 projects funded
 - [MSI FOA](#) recently re-released providing additional funding opportunities
 - Stakeholder Technical Assistance [Sessions](#) and web site development under Common Fund
 - **Community Partnerships to Advance Science for Society (ComPASS)**
 - WG developed FY23 Common Fund effort
 - Approved by Council of Councils
 - 10-year program budget totaling \$397,680,000
- **Next Steps (ongoing)**
 - Await MSI applications
 - Webinars, Technical Assistance Workshops
 - Prepare for release of FY23 ComPASS FOAs
 - Identify opportunities to develop additional FOAs that focus on IC-specific disease/topic areas
- **Metric(s) of Success**
 - Increased and sustained funding of HD/MH/HE research

N Committee: Priorities

Trans-NIH 'N' Committee Data Working Group

- Ensure NIH-wide transparency, accountability, and sustainability of HD/MH/HE research
 - Facilitate analysis of grant application & award data to reveal structural elements that result in 'underfunding' and track progress toward goals
- **Progress and Accomplishments**
 - Automated methodology to identify & characterize the HD/MH/HE research portfolio
 - Thorough analysis of potential tools, approaches & processes
 - Began development & validation process with SMEs across NIH
 - Developing dashboard to facilitate internal portfolio analysis and track progress on goals
 - Have identified funding source and use cases for dashboard
 - **Next Steps (ongoing)**
 - SMEs to complete validation of new portfolio identification approach
 - Continue to develop, operationalize, and test the dashboard
 - **Metrics of Success**
 - Data informed approach to increase funding and programmatic prioritization of HD/MH/HE
 - Ability to track progress against NIH MH/HD/HE goals (including those in Strategic Plans)

N Committee: Priorities

NIH Coordination & Tracking toward HE Goals

- **Coordinate, monitor and analyze HD/MH/HE research at NIH to achieve health equity goals of the NIH Minority Health and Health Disparities Strategic Plan 2021-2025**
- **Progress and Accomplishments**
 - N Committee recommendation to **Empanel Trans-NIH HD/MH/HE Research Coordinating Working Group**
–Approved
 - Charter developed by ‘N’ Committee and presented to NIMHD Director for action
 - NIMHD Director to oversee implementation
- **Next Steps**
 - Support efforts of Trans-NIH HD/MH/HE Research Coordinating Working Group under the direction of NIMHD
- **Metric(s) of Success**
 - Well integrated IC-specific plans to: a) advance equity in funding; b) achieve increases by all ICs in HD/MH/HE research; c) remedy underrepresentation of populations disproportionately affected by target conditions in funded studies.
 - NIH meets research sustaining goals outlined in strategic plan

'N' Committee Membership

Michele K. Evans (NIA)

Anna María Nápoles (NIMHD)

Robert Rivers (NIDDK)

Gwen Bishop (NIDCD)

Vence Bonham (NHGRI)

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