

**Monday, December 5<sup>th</sup> CH RAC teleconference:**

1:00 to 2:30

Number: 1-800-605-5167

Passcode: 227471

- I. We introduced ourselves and reviewed the charter for the RAC.

**Samuel Toba** is the Director of Outreach for Military Partners & Families Coalition (MPFC) – MPFC provides support, resources, education and advocacy for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender military partners and their families. He’s based in Washington, DC. Resiliency of certain people and groups - why some are more resilient than others – is of special interest to his community.

**LaShawna Armstrong** is the project manager for the Georgetown Diabetes CORE Group’s outreach project, “CORE Family Communication” which focuses on health education for people struggling with diabetes, obesity, hypertension and high cholesterol. She’s based in Georgetown, SC. Besides condition-specific health information, computer skills and health literacy are of special interest to her community.

**Kelly Near** is Outreach Librarian at the University of Virginia’s Claude Moore Health Sciences Library. She’s passionate about all aspects of consumer health and especially interested in wellness and preventative measures like teaching mindfulness as a health tool. She’s based in Charlottesville, VA. The changing health care laws are of special interest to her community\*.

\*All agreed that a better understanding of the Affordable Care Act was in demand in their communities.

**Terri Ottosen** is the Consumer Health Coordinator for NN/LM SE/A and her outreach targets mostly librarians.

**Nancy Patterson** is the Community Outreach Coordinator for NN/LM SE/A and her outreach targets mostly community and faith-based groups.

**April, Kay and Ros provided their intros virtually:**

**April Pringle** is the Director of Serenity Health and Wellness which provides health education, computer education, and fitness instruction to Elementary and Middle school age children. Her outreach Target group is K-6 grade participants in the community.

**Kay Hogan Smith** is Community Services Librarian at the University of Alabama at Birmingham Lister Hill Library of the Health Sciences. She is project director of Health InfoNet of Alabama, an award-winning consumer health information service of the state’s medical and public libraries, which she helped initiate in 1999. She is a Distinguished Member of the Academy of Health Information Professionals, and is currently working on a second masters degree in public health.

**Rosalind Lett** is the Associate Director for Public Services for the Huntsville-Madison County Public Library (HMCPL). HMCPL provide all types of library resources and information to the citizen of Huntsville and Madison County including access to Health & Wellness Resources as a result of a recent Health Literacy initiative spear-headed by Rosalind. Ros is based in Huntsville, AL. She has been a Health Sciences Librarian for over 20 years working in hospital libraries in Atlanta, GA and working as a Library Consultant. Issues of concern to her community are Health Literacy & Health Education, the

connection between Genetics and Medicine, Personalized Medicine, Wellness and Preventive Medicine, and Health Disparities.

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- II. Terri explained that this RAC is one of 5 that the NN/LM SE/A puts together. Ours is the Consumer Health RAC and the other 4 are:

Access RAC  
Emergency Preparedness RAC  
Outreach to Health Professionals RAC  
Technology RAC

The specific functions of the five RAC committees were reviewed and include:

- Advising the RML on appropriate mechanisms within the framework of the NN/LM contract for developing and implementing programs to improve health professionals' and the public's access to biomedical information;
- Advising on regional priorities or policies and procedures as they relate to SE/A programs and services;
- Advising on regional priorities or policies and procedures as they relate to the development and implementation of a regional emergency preparedness plan, document delivery plan and others;
- Devising a method to evaluate programs and services;
- Assisting in needs assessment by monitoring activities in their state, regional area, profession or health concern to improve access to and delivery of health information;
- Developing plans to encourage health professionals and health sciences librarians to participate actively in regional and national programs affecting delivery of health information;
- Assisting in the identification of health professionals without access to health information and recommending ways to assist them through SE/A programs;
- Suggesting methods and mechanisms for outreach to new target groups or those identified by NLM initiatives;
- Suggesting methods and mechanism to enhance the roles of librarians, advocate for librarians and libraries, and develop leadership in the profession;
- Providing feedback on programs and services through participation on a RAC, or other methods deemed appropriate;
- Developing ideas for forums or summits of regional interest;
- Suggesting agencies for partnerships to support outreach programs to health consumers and health professionals; and
- Advising on how best to leverage emerging technology to deliver information in education or health care settings.

- III. Samuel Toba volunteered to be our Chair – thank you, Samuel!

As Chair, Samuel will represent our group at annual Oversight Committee meetings in Baltimore and for the one Mid-Contract meeting that will likely will be held in 2013. Terri and I will still be the contacts for information about our group and we'll handle all communications and setting up of our teleconferences.

- IV. We talked about topics our RAC might focus on and perhaps organizing a symposium or event with speakers on the Affordable Care Act in 2013. Other topics of interest were Health Literacy, EMRs or EHRs – Electronic Medical/Health Records, Digital Divide & Underserved Populations, and Effective Outreach Strategies.
- V. We decided that a listserv was the best mode of communication for our group so one was created: [consumerhealthrac@lists.umaryland.edu](mailto:consumerhealthrac@lists.umaryland.edu)

Please use this listserv for any Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) discussions and to share anything of interest you come across in the Consumer Health realm.

- VI. Specific input was requested on NN/LM resources:
- Samuel was asked to review the Veteran’s Health class on the NN/LM SE/A site, “Combatting Information Fatigue” and to give input: <http://nmlm.gov/training/veteranshealth/>
  - Kelly was asked for input on the Health Literacy class on the NN/LM SE/A site, “Promoting Health Literacy through Easy to Read Materials” and give input: <http://nmlm.gov/training/healthliteracy/>
  - LaShawna was asked to provide input on a basic Health Literacy Workshop Power Point for community groups, especially whether the explanation of how to evaluate websites for reliability is clear.
- VII. We adjourned until the next meeting, date and time TBA.