

**DHSS Office of Minority Health**  
**August 15, 2008**

Ozark Regional Alliance held its August general meeting at the Happy House in Monett.

Guest speakers were Gloria Brand and Maria Cepeda from the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services' [Office of Minority Health](#).

Gloria mentioned their office is near to starting a new contract year for the initiative to prevent obesity. They will be awarding seven candidates up to \$25,000 each per year for three years. Successful candidates will focus their program on a minority community. Projects can include a focus on activity, nutrition education or obesity prevention. The grant will be announced in mid-September, and a pre-conference will be held at the same time to provide information to interested applicants. Previous grantees will also share their projects (these will also be posted online).

- Hip Hop for Health, St. Louis – taught dance and nutrition in partnership with the Normandy School District. Students presented what they had learned about nutrition in a dance.
- HIP, Kansas City – worked with senior centers to teach dance.
- Support a Child, St. Louis – worked with after-school programs to provide exercise opportunities, nutrition education and fresh fruit.
- Hispanic Heritage, Jefferson City – taught dance and nutrition

The grant committee will be looking for innovative programs that have a health literacy component which helps the audience understand the information more easily. Existing groups can apply.

Maria is the Hispanic Liaison and works with service providers and churches to provide resources and information to help people located available educational and medical services such as WIC, immunizations, health screenings, as well as information on a variety of health issues. She also works with organizations to put together events where multiple service providers can be present to serve as people visit their booth.

Maria shared information about the resources the Office of Minority Health has to offer, including an extensive warehouse full of complimentary printed materials, VHS tapes and DVDs. View a complete [list of materials](#).

In addition, she recommends <http://medlineplus.gov/> from the National Library of Medicine. They have information in 40 languages, and interactive training videos.

Her other focus areas include [Cambio de Colores](#), Binational Health Week, Latino AIDS Awareness Day (October), HIV and STD training in Jefferson City in October, Minority Health Awareness Month

(April), Hispanic Legislative Week in Jefferson City (April) and other events and grants around the state.

Gloria mentioned that DHSS Director Jane Drummond invited the regional minority health alliances around the state to submit transitional papers on where they've been and the challenges that lie ahead. Ms. Drummond offered to take these papers to the legislature and said they may very well drive 2010 funding awards.

Both Gloria and Maria encouraged ORA to align with the Southwest Regional Alliance based in Springfield to share ideas and resources, and to apply for funding. Samuel Knox is the sitting Chair.

Other focus areas of the Office of Minority Health include infant mortality and HIV emergency response for African Americans. Health literacy is a potential focus through [Missouri Foundation for Health](#). Their office doesn't currently focus on people with disabilities, although they do work to provide information accessible to these audiences.

Shortly their office will release a report on health disparities around the state. Information was collected from focus groups and results will be provided by region.

For more information, visit the [Office of Minority Health](#) online.