



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)

Juanita Chinn (NICHD)

Janine Clayton (ORWH/OD)

Christine Cutillo (NCATS)

Kathy Etz (NIDA)

Justin Hentges (AoU/OD)

Daryl Holder (CC)

Jasmine Kalsi (NCATS)

Nathan Moore (NHGRI)

Joan Romaine (NIAAA)

Asha Storm (NIBIB)

Shannon Zenk (NINR)

+Marzjah Esther (OD)