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 website 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

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