“Leveraging cultural health assets of Somali and Oromo Refugees: An overview of a Community Based Participatory Research Project”

Presented by: Elizabeth Lightfoot & Amano Dube

Elizabeth Lightfoot is a Professor at the University of Minnesota School of Social Work. She has been on faculty at the University of Minnesota since 1999 and has directed Minnesota’s doctoral program since 2007. Her main research interests are in the area of disability policy and services and the intersection of disability with child welfare, aging, violence prevention and health. She has recently been involved in several community based participatory research projects related to refugee health. Her work has been published extensively in a wide variety of academic journals and she has presented her work to colleagues around the world. Dr. Lightfoot is very interested in international social work, and spent a year as a Fulbright scholar in Namibia where she has ongoing collaborations, and just set up the School of Social Work’s first ongoing international field placement for MSW students in Namibia. She has facilitated workshops on Community Based Participatory Research methods for audiences in the United States and abroad.

Amano Dube is the Director at the Brian Coyle Center of the Pillsbury United Communities in Minneapolis. Dube received his MA Degree in Health & Human Services Administration from St. Mary’s University of Minnesota. He has a BS Degree in Agriculture from Alemaya University in Ethiopia. Prior to coming to the United States in 1994, he was Research Officer at the Institute of Agricultural Research in Nazreth, Ethiopia where he was Head of the Horticulture Research Division in Nazreth. Dube has been engaged in community building initiatives since 1995 when thousands of East Africans began to resettle in the Twin Cities. He is closely affiliated with the Oromo Community of Minnesota (OCM) where he served as a volunteer, program staff, Executive Director, Board Secretary and as a President of from February 2007-April 2011. Dube has been playing a central role in bridging the work of the Pillsbury United communities with higher institutions like the University of Minnesota to design program developments and service delivery that uses credible research and evaluation data. In 2009, he formalized such a partnership with the School of Social Work to address the health disparities with East African immigrants and refugee population in Minnesota. In 2010, the partnership conducted community asset mapping project that involved individuals, focus groups, and series of community forms and produced cultural health assets of East Africans that can be used in designing interventions to address health disparities in these communities.

This seminar is supported in part by a grant from the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities (1P60MD003422) to the University of Minnesota Center for Health Equity. To present your research project or idea at a future seminar, please contact Megan Hoffman at 612-626-4120 or hoff0511@umn.edu.