

## Race Equity Advisory Council Meeting

### Meeting Notes

Date: January 20, 2022  
Time: 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm  
Location: Zoom

**Council members present:** Amani Berry, Bocar Kane, Deran Cadotte, Johnathon McClellan, Larry Hiscock, Mahogany Ellis-Crutchfield, Miamon Queeglay, Sheila Webb.

**Council members not present:** Biftuu Ibrahim Adam, Debjyoti Dwivedy, Mukul Nautiyal, Tekia Jefferson

**County Staff:** May Xiong, Mercy Das, Pat Zagaros, Randy Larson, Robert Gruba, Steve Voeller, Vinodh Kutty

*Meeting was broadcast on Zoom for public viewing.*

1. January meeting agenda approved.  
Larry Hiscock moved to approve, Miamon Queeglay seconded. 8 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 Abstain
2. December meeting notes were approved  
Larry Hiscock moved to approve, Miamon Queeglay seconded. 8 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 Abstain
3. Introduction to May Xiong, Hennepin County Assistant County Administrator for Disparity Reduction line of business starting in January 2022.
  - What will employment and benefits look like going forward
    - Looking into how best to support families through employment strategies
    - Working with community providers and their training programs
    - Exploring how to balance income and benefits to address the benefits cliff
    - In former position as Human Services Director for child support and economic stability and worked with the complete family structure.
  - What would you like to accomplish this year?
    - Working on how the domains intersect in residents lives and with each other
    - Exploring how REAC can be integrated into this process.

4. Council met in committees
  - a. Child Well Being (Mahogany, Sheila)
    - i. Shared and received input on child protection committee report that the committee worked on last year.
    - ii. Looking into financial compensation for parents whose children have been taken away from them.
    - iii. Invite youth to REAC or this committee to learn about their experience in the system; consider is it right to take away someone's child forever and explore reunification as the primary goals.
    - iv. By Feb meeting will decide on a date for a monthly meeting outside of this meeting.
    - v. After the board appoints members to the REAC in April, will decide if this committee is feasible with few members.
    - vi. Hard to work on annual report in the summer.
    - vii. Consider annual report in December or January.
  - b. Housing (Larry, Deran, Bocar)
    - i. Will survey members to find a time to meet for 90 minutes outside this meeting
    - ii. Three focus themes:
      - o Follow up on relationships
      - o Meet with Commissioners connected to Housing
      - o Tenant rights and protections
    - iii. Intersection between housing disparity and wealth creation.
  - c. Justice (Johnathon, Mahogany, Miamon)
    - i. Schedule a meeting for Feb 8<sup>nd</sup> and then the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 5 pm.
      - o Agenda to be determined for the whole year
      - o Invite speakers including commissioners and experts on
        - use of tear gas
        - officers in schools
        - cash bail
        - work in Sheriff's office
      - o Follow up with Commissioners about a budget for this work
      - o Additional staff support needed since there are many meetings and one person cannot be at all the meetings
    - ii. Bring a REAC memo to commissioners on COVID 19.
  - d. Health (Miamon, Larry) Met outside this meeting.
  - e. Civic engagement (Sheila, Amani)
    - i. Considered viability of this committee with two members and will make a decision about focus and activities in April after new members are appointed
    - ii. Continue to meet at this meeting; don't really need a second meeting.

- iii. Mahogany recommends committee meets on their own once a month in case there are speakers or other activities in these meetings and committees cannot meet.

f. Community Engagement (Johnathon, Amani, Miamon)

- i. Structure Community Engagement into all subcommittees, each subcommittee would report out to Community Engagement committee to have all recommendations/topics in one place
- ii. Check in with county commissiners, make sure they have what they need from us and what we need from them
- iii. Housing committee is going to be meeting with a tenants right organization, is the Community Engagement committee would like be cc'd on the outcome of those meetings
- iv. Develop structure so that what is coming out of community engagement is understandable

5. Announcements

- Mental Health RFP volunteer—Miamon Queeglay
- Prepare materials for new members orientation to committees

6. Adjourn

Motion: Johnathon McClellan; Seconded: Deran Cadotte. 8 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 Abstain