

Race Equity Advisory Council

Date: Thursday, May 19, 2022

Time: 6-8 p.m.

Location: Zoom

Council members present: Amani Berry, Christina Luna, Deran Cadotte, Johnathon McClellan, Larry Hiscock, Miamon Queeglay, Paola Ehrmantraut, Raquel Jarabek, Sheila Webb, Susan McPherson, Yolanda Rogers

Council members not present: Biiftuu Ibrahim Adam, Bocar Kane, Debjyoti Dwivedy, Mahogany Ellis-Crutchfield, Roberta Sheritha-Reindorf, Tekia Jefferson

County Staff: Commissioner Angela Conley, Pat Zagaros, Randy Larson, Shawn Sorrell, Christine Crook-Nash

Agenda

Approved current month agenda (**action item**)

Request to add Commission Conley to agenda

Motion: Johnathan Second: Deran

Passes by voice vote with 0 Abstains, May meeting agenda is approved

Approved past month meeting notes (**action item**)

Motion: Johnathan Second: Miamon

Passes by voice vote with 2 Abstain, April meeting notes are approved

Welcomed Commissioner Angela Conley - welcomes new members provided comments and council members offered the following questions/ responses:

- *What is on the top of your agenda, your priority:*
 - Youth Mental Health and Social Supports
- *Are you seeing an alignment of funding that has been so missing from general mental health, are you seeing that being echoed in the state house?*
 - There are local and national conversations on this topic, with plans to discuss during the NACo convention. ARPA funds expire in 2024

Hennepin County Administration

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Discussed In-person meetings Will resume June 16, 2022, at Minneapolis Central Library, located at 300 Nicollet Mall, Minneapolis, in the Doty Board Room, Parking will be reimbursed with receipts and council members offered the following questions/ responses:

- *What is that anticipated mask policy and distancing?*
 - County providing masks, hand sanitizer, and practicing social distancing. Masks not mandatory or required at this time
- *Is the public invited to the in-person meeting?*
 - Looking at ways on how the public can participate virtually, will get a better response closer to the meeting
- *Virtual option?*
 - Council members are being asked to attend in person, hybrid for the community at large being explored
- *Possible to put to vote some members attend remotely and if it is possible, put it to vote to the council?*
 - Council members must be present for voting, we've been advised to follow the structure of the county board, Council member concerns will be shared with county administration

Elections held congratulatory remarks given by council members

- a. Chair Deran elected and accepted
- b. Vice chair Paola elected and accepted
- c. Secretary Larry elected and accepted

Disparities Reduction Priorities Income Domain Christine Crook-Nash presented, and council members offered the following questions/ responses:

- *Housing program for long-term homelessness, single adults, require people who have other income (SSI benefits) are obligated to use to SSI supplement their housing, concern around those who have Social 'security benefits from employment are exempt, disabled have to pay back, and those working do not, any thoughts on this?*
 - These programs were created in isolation and don't work together, federal programs cannot be changed, identify barriers are there and how can we overcome them.
- *Eliminating shelter fee is huge for eliminating barriers for families facing homelessness.*
- *How is the county influencing partners on what county is doing in the general landscape moving beyond small businesses?*
 - Engaging small leadership council and nonprofits in conversations on what we are doing, what are you doing, how can we work together to make the largest impact.
- *Youth entrepreneurship pilot program, share your vision of the program.*
 - Designed to engage youth, paid opportunities over the summer ages 14-24, so youth can have internship and paid opportunities to help them figure out what they want to do, explore career paths. Target indigenous and black youth.
- *What about providing property tax credits for families?*
 - Will need to take back to county administration.
- *Shifting culture and procurement, how is the county working with procurement staff to take risks?*
 - We have encouraged staff to look at how they can make changes inside out with direction of county board in an effort to reduce disparities. Note: Our procurement staff is a part of the Disparity Reduction Line of Business.
- *When will the youth initiatives take off?*

- Proposed sometime in June
- *Opportunities for council to provide feedback to presentation.*
 - County staff to work on possibility of providing summary document for review

Identify potential REAC intersections – Moved to discussion during committee meetings

Committees in small groups

- Justice, Health, Civic Engagement, Housing Committees.
- Housing committee – getting to know committee members
- Civic Engagement – follow up questions for Shawn, moved to Justice Committee and had a conversation with Johnathan, some logistics to figure out
- Justice Committee – talked with Civic Engagement, connect and push work we started off with the first report, set up some meetings to finalize talking points, touched on cash bail, will have conversations on where we need to go then present to next meeting
- Housing Committee – annual report communications, share dates of our committee meetings with Zoom links
- Reminder to email county staff dates of your committee meetings so that can be shared with all committee members

Adjourned **(action item) Passes by voice vote, meeting adjourned 8pm**