

Race Equity Advisory Council

Date: Thursday, November 16, 2023

Time: 6-8 p.m.

Location: NorthPoint Conference Center

Council members present: Yolanda Rogers, Olufunso Oresanya, Samba Fall, Ralph Yehle, Jigar Mistry, Josephine Thao, Raquel Jarabek, Paola Ehrmantraut

Council members not present: Bocar Kane, Roberta Reindorf, Joan Blakely, Bill Tipping, April Salchert, Susan McPherson, Esther Mwangi

County Staff: Vernona Boswell, Alison Weiler, Lisa Bayley, Dr. Tamara Mattison

Notes

Approved current month agenda

Motion: Samba Second: Raquel
All in favor, November meeting agenda is approved

Approved past month meeting notes

Motion: Jigar Second: Samba
All in favor, meeting notes are approved

Welcome

- Commissioner Anderson has appointed a new member, Josephine "Josie" Thao, to the council. Her term extends to 2025.

Safe communities' presentation with Director Lisa Bayley and Dr. Tamara Mattison

- The group engage in a question-and-answer session ending with discussion.
 - What is the role of gender in violence prevention programming?
 - Are the community liaisons permanently funded? Has the work pivoted based on Community feedback?
 - Is mental health a consideration in the work?

- How do we share back data to at risk communities?
 - Group is adamant that the community and politics should be separate.
- What new cities are joining JCPP?
 - Bloomington is adding two liaisons, Brooklyn Park will have two, and Robbinsdale will add a fulltime position.
 - Many other cities are interested in participating but lack funding.
- Do initiatives focus on transportation?
- Recommendations given by REAC:
 - Would like to see data driven focus around key demographic areas. This includes services with flexibility so that programs can adjust to issues in specific communities.
 - Collection of data around suicides because of sexual exploitation.
 - Expansion of before/after school programs with trusted community partners.
 - i.e. Boys and girls program has a huge impact on youth. The interaction starts early and mentorship instrumental.

2023 report response

- The commissioners heard the request for data and appreciated the groups direct approach.
- The narrowed scope was well received.

2024 committees

- Progress and review committee would like to look at specific themes including safe communities, economic disparities, health, and elections (formal request for presentation).
- The income committee would like Education Support Services Director, Christa Mims, to attend a meeting and discuss in education in further detail.
- Additional areas of interest include:
 - Economic inequality.
 - Housing (formal request from the group).
 - Salary and benefits from Human Resources.
 - Health (formal request for opioid initiatives presentation).

- The group will continue this conversation in January 2024 meeting.

Adjourn

Motion: Olu
Second: Raquel
All in favor, motion passes