

# Race Equity Advisory Council

**Date:** Thursday, October 19, 2023

**Time:** 6-8 p.m.

**Location:** NorthPoint Conference Center

**Council members present:** Jigar Mistry, Olufunso Oresanya, Bill Tipping, April Salchert, Ralph Yehle, Raquel Jarabek, Susan McPherson, Samba Fall, Esther Mwangi, Paola Ehrmantraut

**Council members not present:** Bocar Kane, Roberta Reindorf, Yolanda Rogers, Joan Blakely

**County Staff:** Shawn Sorrell, Vernona Boswell, Alison Weiler

## Notes

Approved current month agenda

**Motion: Samba            Second: Olu**  
**All in favor, October meeting agenda is approved**

Approved past month meeting notes

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

Outreach and Community Services (OCS) Presentation

- Power point presentation shared with the group, followed by a question-and-answer session.
- Where does community engagement come in with the light rail?
  - A team, that includes anti-displacement and community engagement staff, are being added to work with community while the blue line is being planned and built.
- How is the group addressing violence?
  - The safe communities department is engaging with partners on gun violence and youth violence prevention. Staff from this department will be presenting at the November REAC meeting.

- Is Hennepin County planning for refugees?
  - OCS is looking into how to reach this community.

#### Council 2024 Goals (aspirations objectives, topics of interest)

- The council would like to learn about elections, safe communities, youth violence, anti-displacement, refugees, education, and health inequity.
- A deeper dive was requested on community mental health, community safety, and how these intersect with housing and economic stability.
  - Economic stability and training in the workforce with county investments.
  - Generational wealth and benefits for communities.
- Advisory board communications that span all of the Hennepin County advisory boards.
  - Would like to build relationships to share information and ensure no duplication of work.
- Objectively evaluate data.
  - Continue to encourage the county in all recommendations to provide sufficient resources dedicated to the back end for data and information from the public. This gives another layer of intentionality.

#### 2023 Draft Report

- All edits accepted from review.
- Decision to change language of mental health "issues" to "needs."

#### Meeting Location for the Foreseeable Future

**Motion for all meetings at NorthPoint location: Jigar Second: none**

**All in favor, motion passes**

#### Adjourn

**Motion: April Second: Samba**

**All in favor, motion passes**