***Health Equity Advisory Commission Meeting Notes***

**Date: January 2, 2024**

**Facilitator:  Rev Mark Hughes**

**Chairs: Rev Mark Hughes and Kirsten Murphy**

**Scribe: Sara Chesbrough**

**Welcome and moment of reflection (5 minutes)**

* Indigenous leadership present, thank you for newer folx for joining us/rejoining
* Keep in mind that we are doing the work, want the community to know we are doing the work
* Thank you for tending to one another with care

**Discussion on the report -- It’s done! (10 minutes)**

* The report, and its recommendation that the OHE be placed in VDH for the first three years has been reviewed by leadership at VDH and they have offered some feedback. Their main questions were about clarifying authority of VDH and whether the money we are asking for is built into the budget.
* Discussion about how HEAC and VDH will relate in their collective authority in overseeing the office.
* Discussion about how this decision was come to, and how much the VDH OHEI team has been able to provide input/feedback, with the CDC Health Disparities grant ending.
* This report will unencumber $$ for HEAC, and also serves as this year’s narrative report
* Specific points about Office of Health Equity**:** 
  + Draw their attention to the both/and/all. We need an OHE, a HEAC (independence, community partners), AND resources (money to invest in grants).
  + Recc that OHE sit in VDH
  + Talk about the process we went through
  + We need the impetus and apparaatus of govt to get an Office established, but that can be limiting. We have to also be cross-systems.
  + Recc to review that placement in 3 years
  + Recc to resource the office (budget detailed in report)
  + Need to be directed by our comm partners
  + Summary of recommendations (power point by KM)
  + Appreciattion for conversation about Authority and accountability
* Went over slides
* Discussion – what if we had a health equity office (like OHEI in VDH) in all the Depts, with OHE above them
* Specific points about HEAC:
  + Recc that HEAC be housed in AHS

**Report next steps:**

* Let’s coordinate a legislative approach – talking with champions, arranging for committee presentations, materials we need to develop (30 minutes)
* Kirsten will draft the deck, Wichie and Kirsten to testify if needed
* As soon as we have a plan for the money they release on receipt of our report the better – they will see we have underspent
* Chair Hughes send report it in an email to Chairs of Committees of Jurisdiction, attaching the report and saying we will reach out to your committeee assistant to request some time on your agendas to discuss our report
* Austerity position, things are drying up
* Federal funders and our state leg will want to know – what have you done with the resources we already gave you, how little can you run on/can we trim anything
* Discussion on future of VDH OHEI (didn’t capture notes well, was speaking)
* Is there unallocated $ in the cannabis excise tax? 30% of excise task on cannabis is for prevention, smaller group meeting with the Substance Misuse Prevention Advisory Council. Excise tax from cannabis settlements should be added to general fund to support HEAC and other equity work. This is on Monica’s radar and she is in consultation with James Pepper, Chair of the Cannabis Control Board

**Items Below Tabled:**

Brief Update – the AHEAD model. Why does this matter to the HEAC? (10 minutes)

RFP conversation (10 minutes)

* Revised scope of work
* Appointment with Health Management Associates

Priorities for the year (25 minutes)

* Develop list of groups/programs to invite in to update HEAC on existing health equity work.

**Next full meeting Feb 6th 12:30-2**