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

Date: October 3, 2023

Facilitator:  Rev Mark Hughes

Scribe: Sara Chesbrough

**Agenda Consensus, Previous Meeting Notes** (5 mins)

**Public Comment** (5 mins)

* Belan Antensaye - VT Health Equity Initiative – supporting health equity efforts statewide. Just found out about these meetings and linking in.

**Nominations and 2 Year Seat Reappointments –** Director Davis and Chair Hughes (20 mins)

* Chair and Vice Chair terms end in October. Nominations in October meeting.
* 2 year terms are ending – reappointment in October. Director Davis to send notifications
* Outreach efforts to encourage participation
* Decisions made by vote this time instead of consensus – today we have the majority of the people who usually make it
* Explore alternates for community partners membership?
* We will switch from Chair and Vice Chair to Co-chairs. Need to have one person who is the point of contact
* Kirsten M nominated for Co-chair, accepted, seconded, unanimously voted on
* Mark H nominated for Chair, accepted, seconded, unanimously voted on
* 2 year seat reappointments: Song Nguyen, Office of Health Equity Integration, will be the VDH designee. Sara Chesbrough, whose term is ending, will find out if she can remain on as an ad hoc member from VDH for a one year term. Co-chairs will reach out to the 2 year reappointments that are not present here

**Status of RFP** - Director Davis (15 mins)

* RFP stems from original statute - $180K was intended to hire a consultant to help with our work. Activities: facilitation, community liaising, reporting.
* Two bids came back. A selection has not yet been made. Small RFP review group needs to come to full group with final recommendation.
* Small group will reconvene. Director Davis to send invite.

**Status of Report due to legislature** – Kirsten (15 mins)

* Chair Hughes gave background on what previous reports to the legislature have contained – significantly
* In the 11th hour we received $750K contingent upon the submission of a report
* Framework for report created by Monica Hutt, reviewed by Kirsten and Director Davis, resent.
* Looking for feedback once people skim it – is this the direction we want to go?
* Ensure we are including pros and cons in the section that discusses siting of the office (6a)
* Describe the funding going forward – would this be under recommendations? #3, 7, 9 – talk about what resources we will need in future fiscal years.
* Timeline, next steps, how to have others weigh in
* Due in January but we’d like to get it in before then. Do we submit this report in combination with our annual report?
* Chair Hughes will start draft. Kheya and Sara C to contribute. Chair Hughes will email to set up a process.

**Equity Moment –** Chair Hughes(10 mins)

* Medicaid Discussion and Resources
* [Pandemic Shapes Medicaid Priorities and Annual Medicaid Budget](https://www.kff.org/report-section/medicaid-budget-survey-for-state-fiscal-years-2022-and-2023-executive-summary/)
* [Medicaid and Racial Health Equity](https://www.kff.org/medicaid/issue-brief/medicaid-and-racial-health-equity/)
* [Enrollment and Unwinding Tracker](https://www.kff.org/medicaid/issue-brief/medicaid-enrollment-and-unwinding-tracker/)

**Act 117 (2022) (15 mins) -** TBD (15 minis)

* [Office of Professional Regulation](https://wfck1gw3.r.us-east-1.awstrack.me/L0/https:%2F%2Fsos.vermont.gov%2Fopr%2F/1/0100018a1d5b6197-5e2cf161-0f56-454a-8c32-7a7a7a2d3d6b-000000/-w2f388Qbb4NCRxwHEQNVO7Myzo=336) (OPR) study to assess Vermont’s mental health professional licensing regulations.
* Over the last few years, VT Racial Justice Alliance has been requesting things like peer-to-peer networking, affinity spaces, to train health care professionals
* Our response to this policy? Should HEAC chime in on this matter as a Commission? Do we have a position? If we can generate a work product or a comment, we should, but don’t want a dozen people putting out recommendations OBO the full group – are we comfortable moving forward on stuff that is time sensitive?
* Examination of barriers that impact quality of mental health care.
* Acknowledge that leg allowed us to have reciprocal licensing/telemedicine - access more diverse workforce of providers
* High points – the stakeholder input and the findings and recommendations (not due until end of next year). Might want to engage here.
* Put back on agenda for next meeting.

Next meeting: **November 7, 2023 12:30-2 PM**

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