

Health Equity Advisory Commission
Meeting Notes

Date: January 11, 2022

I. Updates

- Finding a **standing meeting time** – thanks to Vice Chair Gillom and Leslie for surveying folks – legislature is meeting now, and Mondays can be tough for some, so we will alternate
- Monday 12:30-2 one month, Tuesday 12:30-2 the next
- During report drafting we're meeting twice/month
- Director Davis will send out all invites for 2022
- DD council learned that the White house is giving funding to all DD Councils to hire a person within their Council to do HE work around folks with disabilities. Enough \$ to fund a part time person, will try to collaborate.

II. Report Drafting Plan

- Report deadline – Director Davis spoke to Chairs Pugh, Lyons, Lippert – asked for 2/18 deadline extension. They were open to an extension but didn't want to wait too long as to not miss opportunities for new legislation/action. New deadline **February 7th**.
- How will we accomplish this?
- Subcommittees are getting legs under them
- What is the output – pdf doc?
- From statute: "findings and any recommendations for legislative action. The Advisory Commission is encouraged to base recommendations on the data collected and analysis completed pursuant to section 253 of [18 V.S.A.]"
- Backward design – part of our result is organizing ourselves, grounding the work
- Kheya – use RBA framework
- Leslie will share out with data group – can report on what's currently available
- Standing up of committee, how we're structuring, what data are available, some of the bigger HD that we're aware of, what will we look most closely at
- A3 thinking – Background, current conditions section (data we're collecting), findings section (analysis of conditions), proposed changes section (reccs moving forward)
- Legislators want to make sure date isn't too late to craft legislation
- Recc could be – here are some things we want you to keep in mind to assess bills against. Meta-recommendation
- Kirsten- legislators are pragmatic. Are they hinting that we should have something as basic as a budget request? There is a lot of federal money out there. Pick a number, what would we use the money for, ask for it
- Kheya – reminder that we're advising on the set up of an Office of Health Equity (by Jan 2023), where it is going to be

- Justin – reccs should be tight based on our data
- Kheya – create definitions – apples to apples – we are not using same language, same focus. Concerned we won't have enough data, not enough BIPOC folks here, we need to create something that is best practice (outside the state)
- Leslie – We can make recc's on what data we should be collecting/how
- Concern about quality and abundance of data
- Dir Davis – recc should be about HOW we're collecting data. Should be explicit – any reccs or disp we're highlighting in the first report are not the TOP reccs – just the first ones we felt comfortable bringing to you now.
- We have \$108K to hire a consultant to help with that discussion
- Lack of colleagues from CBOs that are on this call. We won't have enough time to meaningfully engage those members, reccs coming from them are critical. Let's analyze the barriers in the report
- Issue mapping doc – good starting point
- In thinking about standing up OCE, critical resource it properly and include comm
- Dir Davis will put a draft report in Microsoft Word shared doc, should be able to co-edit it.. She will reach out separately to those who indicated they want to be involved in report writing/editing.
- Leslie – is there a place we can share relevant docs as we draft report? Yes, shared link to Sharepoint.

III. Subcommittee Report Outs

- 4: Engagement and Communications – trying to figure out what it is we should be doing. Some sub comms will be doing some of their own outreach. They intend to update website for the HEAC – if there is someone with a general question, ensure they have an avenue to contact the group. Possibly create listserv, future newsletter. Would like to hear needs of other subcommittees.
- 7: Grants and Funding - The Grants and Funding subcommittee of the Health Equity Advisory Commission will advise on best practices and accountable processes for equitable funding distribution, in service to all Vermonters, with a focus on supporting access for marginalized communities. We offer general advice and consulting on funding decision making and award processes, as well as targeted assistance for specific funding opportunities. We will also map available funding for community-based organizations and may seek/disperse funding ourselves.
- Monthly reoccurring meeting – haven't defined formal roles. We talked a lot about folks wanting to be more equitable in dispersing their grants – how can we assist them? Will want to connect with everyone. We can't be the only one making decisions about how to grant money.
- Two more are scheduled, two TBD. Check for email from Director Davis if you haven't scheduled a meeting.
- Reminder: Per statute, our subcommittee meetings need to be open to public – requiring in person location. If you need help finding physical space, Dir Davis can support.
- Kirsten – DD does have conference room, happy to make that a physical location

IV. Public Comment

- none

V. Review/Preview

- Director Davis will send out monthly meeting invites to begin after our Feb report deadline.
- Director Davis will send around a “live” and editable draft of our report to the legislature. If she is getting what she needs in edits, that’s great. If we need to be all together to react and respond, she will call a meeting.
- Create section on SharePoint and website for sub-committee info (please reach out to Dir Davis if you can volunteer to assist with the website).
- Leslie will send note about available data.