

**OPEN MEETING MINUTES**

Name of Governmental Body: Governor's Health Equity Council Subcommittee: Structural Funding Inequities		Attending: Members: Andrea Werner, Isaak Mohamed, Janel Hines, Lt. Gov Mandela Barnes, William Parke-Sutherland,
Date: 8/4/2021	Time Started: 3:00 PM Time Ended: 4:30 PM	State staff: MayChee Yang, Beth Wikler  Public/guests: Mackenzie Gearin, Justin Rivas (MHCP), Bob Sheire & Heidi Sheire (Richland Center), Mildred Hunter, Annmarie Buckley, Karl Kopp (Society's Assets), Eileen Zeiger  Not attending: Guy Reiter (Member), Cecie Culp (State staff)
Location: Zoom Video Conference Zoom Link: <a href="https://dcfwi.zoom.us/j/86941196445?pwd=VG96cjNpd1drY0xneit1L1dKSHd5dz09">https://dcfwi.zoom.us/j/86941196445?pwd=VG96cjNpd1drY0xneit1L1dKSHd5dz09</a> Toll-free audio: +1 301 715 8592 or +1 312 626 6799 or +1 646 518 9805 or +1 669 900 6833 or +1 253 215 8782 or +1 346 248 7799 Webinar ID: 869 4119 6445 Passcode: 803434		Presiding Officer: Chair: Gale Johnson; Co-Chair: Maria Barker

**Minutes**

**1. Welcome and check-in**

**2. Review and approve minutes from 7/21/21 meeting**

Andrea moved to approve the minutes. Janel seconded the motion. All members in favor; none opposed.

**3. Ideation Phase: Continue discussion of recommendations and criteria**

Andrea has started gathering ideas/recommendations by interviewing community stakeholders for input, so that it's representative of the local community voice. Her conversations with the community generally focused around the concept of "Upstreamism" – impacting health and well-being by dealing with issues upstream. Next, she plans to fill out the IDEATION worksheets using these ideas. So far, some ideas gathered are:

- ***WIC reform (specifically fruit juices for young children)***
- ***Medical debt prevention/policy***
- ***Minimum wage as a living wage***
- ***Expansion of housing assistance and eviction protection***
- ***Earned Income Tax Expansion***
- ***Invest in early childhood education that culturally responsive***
- ***Mental health coverage expansion***
- ***Enhance policy around workforce discrimination***

- **Enhance access and expand refugee resettlement services**

Isaak is currently working with Barron County Housing Development to start a **housing project to address the housing shortage** issue considering the increase of immigration/refugee resettlement projected for fiscal year Oct 2021 – Sept 2022. The goal is to increase housing in Barron, but no targeted dates yet of when this will happen.

William shared ideas/recommendations related to the expansion of Medicaid coverage and making health services accessible to all who need it:

- **Continuous BadgerCare+ coverage for all eligible children or children under 5 years old**
- **Expand Emergency Medical Assistance coverage for undocumented immigrants and childless adults**
- **Use Medicaid funds to help address Social Determinations of Health (e.g. transportation, housing, etc.)**

Isaak added that working families who depend on continuous BC+ coverage end up losing coverage based on their earned income exceeding the BC+ income limit eligibility. How can we adjust the state BC+ household income eligibility criteria, so that parents can continue supporting their children/families by earning a living wage income and receive health coverage for the entire family?

Gale added that the BC+ program began as a waiver through the federal government (over 10+ years ago) centered around affordability and eligibility for the uninsured. She suggested all members review the waiver and then consider the idea of proposing a new waiver to expand Medicaid further to reach those currently without health coverage.

Review of timeframe and criteria for Ideation Phase and next steps:

Some members asked about how/who to submit their Ideation Worksheets, criteria to consider when completing Ideation Worksheets, and what the next steps will be.

- Beth provided clarification of the timeframes, guidance of criteria/feasibility of policy pathways, and process moving forward (i.e. the timeline for submitting ideas from communities, evaluating them, and then prioritizing them). This information is detailed in the *CREATE Phase: Timeline and Structure* power point slide deck by Dr. Michelle Robinson, presented to the GHEC on 7/21/21.

A member asked how specific ideas should be (in terms of operational criteria and identified administrative pathways). For example, members have suggested some very specific ideas/policy recommendations (like service reimbursement rates) while other ideas are very broad (prevention programs, expansion of medical coverage, transportation, etc).

- Beth explained that during Ideation Phase, creativity is the most important thing. Proposals/ideas don't need to have all the details/be perfect but are more so responses to issues/challenges members identified during our meetings 7/21/21 and today. The end goal is for policy proposals/ideas moving forward be specific and actionable (i.e., detailing a concrete path to make a policy change).

#### 4. Decision voting

Did not happen because topics discussed today did not require decision voting.

**5. Review assignments/tasks for next meeting 8/18/21**

MayChee will email to members a list of all ideas generated by members by Friday, 8/6/21. Members will review it and decide which ones they'll work on, they can coordinate with each other (if they choose) to complete Ideation Worksheet(s).

Members will complete and email their Ideation Worksheets by 8/13/21 (priority deadline). If unable to meet this deadline, members still have until the next Subcommittee Open Meeting 8/18/21 to bring their ideas at the next scheduled Open Meeting, Wednesday 8/18/21.

**6. Comments from the public**

Heidi shared that she and Bob participate on a board that addresses FoodShare and people not getting vaccinated; COVID, riding taxis, and wearing masks (see recordings 45:55-46:50 and 1:27:45-1:30:37 for more information).

**7. Adjourn**

Prepared by: MayChee Yang on 8/9/2021.

These minutes will be approved by the Governor's Health Equity Council subcommittee Structural Funding Inequity on: 8/18/2021