

OPEN MEETING MINUTES

Name of Governmental Body: Governor's Health Equity Council			Attending: Chair Gina Green-Harris, Maria Barker, Lt. Governor Mandela Barnes, Shiva Bidar-Sielaff, Sandy Brekke, Dr. Amy DeLong, Diane Erickson, Vincent Lyles, Wanda Montgomery, Lilliann Paine, William Parke-Sutherland, Dr. Tito Izard, Gale Johnson, Dr. Michelle Robinson, Ellen Sexton, Karen Timberlake, Paula Tran, Elizabeth Valitchka, Andrea Werner, Dr. Jasmine Zapata Emilie Amundson, Sam Austin, Cecie Culp, Nadiyah Groves, Julia Nagy, Kevin Reddy, Vipul Shukla, Jerry Waukau, Beth Wikler, T.R. Williams, Donna Wong, MayChee Yang
Date: 6/10/2022	Time Started: 10:00 AM	Time Ended: 11:30 AM	
Location: Zoom			Presiding Officer: Gina Green-Harris
Minutes			

1. Welcome, Overview of Agenda, Approve Minutes..... 10:00 to 10:05 AM

Gina Green-Harris welcomed Council members, reviewed the agenda, and thanked members for their commitment and efforts with the Council.

Gale made a motion to approve the April 27 meeting minutes. Wanda seconded. All approved.

2. Gina Green-Harris Remarks10:05 to 10:11 AM

Gina thanked all of the Council members and staff. Gina stated the importance of the work of the Council. The work has already made a difference. She thanked the Governor. The Governor already created an Office of Environmental Justice, and the Governor is already moving. He is taking our recommendations seriously and some of them can be rolled into budget recommendations. The Council came together despite the pandemic. They brought together not just elected officials or appointees, but people with lived experience. It was a bi-directional Council, and showed that citizens and government can work together. We accomplished the goal of a health plan that will not sit on the shelf. Health equity is not an easy lift, but the Council took the challenge and accepted the charge. She asked the Council to give themselves a round of applause. We lost fewer Council members than any other Council despite never meeting in person.

3. Secretary Karen Timberlake Remarks10:11 to 10:18 AM

Secretary Timberlake said how concluding GHEC feels very much like a commencement – the end of the beginning. The Council has done great work over all of these months. At DHS, there have been great connections and opportunities for alignment that have been forged. At DHS we are here to protect and promote the health and safety of citizens of the state, and we do that best in collaboration with people with lived experience and when we work with stakeholders and advocates to lift up those voices.

Secretary Timberlake thanked the Council, the staff and the Co-Chairs. The vision, from the architecture, the writing, the way the work has been done, all of it comes from the leadership of Gina and Michelle.

The Council's work has already made a difference in what we do at DHS in working toward advancing health equity. DHS is going forward with seeking a post-partum extension and submitted the waiver application June 3.

As DHS was developing the plan for the American Rescue Plan Act – Home and Community Based Services program, the Council had an impact on the policies and DHS' thinking on how these vital services really do keep people as independent as possible for as long as possible. The Council had great challenging questions for us on how we are making sure we truly are reaching every part of the state and every community and every person who may not have an easy point of access to information and services that could and should be funded by these programs.

Also - our planning, as a result of your feedback, will be lifting up the principles, the values, the narrative and the foundational vision of the Council when we craft our biennial budget proposals. We will need your support in advancing the recommendations. There is resistance to addressing health equity. We all do better when we all do better. We have been pleased to be your partner and look forward to further collaboration.

4. Secretary Emilie Amundson Remarks10:19 to 10:28 AM

Gina recognized DCF and thanked them for their partnership.

Secretary Amundson said one of the hardest decisions she made was to ask Dr Robinson to serve as her surrogate on the Council. It was the right decision due to her experience, background and passion for this work. She thanked the Chair for going forward with a committed, aggressive timeline. She acknowledged Elizabeth Valitchka.

Secretary Amundson said that she has worked with many Councils over the years. The Council put together more concrete, tangible recommendations than she has ever seen by a Council. GHEC is a model for how Councils should act. The commitment, process, lifting up true expertise and experience, it is a model for other Councils. She recognized the collaboration and shared priorities between DHS and DCF. This work allows them to strengthen their relationship and benefit the people we all work with every day.

Secretary Amundson said she is excited going forward because these proposals have inspired staff at DCF who are hard at work on budget proposals and their ability to steer programs in directions that make an impact for the folks we work with. She also sees the opportunities for cross pollination with other Councils that DCF staffs. I am deeply appreciative of the work you have done. I am personally committed to advance this work.

5. Lt. Governor Mandela Barnes Remarks10:29 to 10:34 AM

Gina thanked Lt Gov Barnes and acknowledged how instrumental he was in driving the work toward our goals. Lt. Governor Barnes said health equity is one of the most important issues we have to deal with. We have an opportunity to be a national leader in health equity. During the pandemic disparities were highlighted. This plan will outlive the pandemic.

He thanked Gina. He has been the Chair of Councils and knows how hard it is. But it is because all of these perspectives were brought together that we have a plan. Exciting time to see this report after

working 20 months, it speaks to importance of teamwork and collaboration. No one knows the needs of the community better than those doing the work and those living through the experience – you all. Your work has not gone unnoticed. Systemic racism, climate control – it is all related. We can't solve one without solving the other. We can't afford to be siloed. Doing the work piecemeal we will fail. Thank you again for making this state the best place to live.

6. T.R. Williams Presentation on How Government Works and Advocacy.....10:35 to 11:15 AM

Gina introduced T.R. and said this presentation is more important than ever because we are shifting to advocacy so this plan does not sit on the shelf.

T.R. reviewed how policy is made, the agency role, and the budget process.

T.R. stressed when doing advocacy - know the person you are trying to educate's current state and where they aspire to be so you know what tool to use. It defines the strategy.

People can do advocacy though legislative advocacy and educational advocacy (talking to law maker for example and giving them more information). Get a messenger who is the most effective voice to do the advocacy. You might not be the right person.

Yes, a 5013 can advocate. They can educate, grass roots organize, coalition building, research, and do nonpartisan voter education. Power mapping is a skill and an art. People want to go right to the top, but you need to determine who is in charge of making the decision.

Make sure people who are impacted by the change know about the recommendations. What are the obstacles? It may be a good idea, but there are other issues to overcome.

Assess the impact. Is it working as well as you wanted it to? If not – adjust the strategy.

Sometimes the thing that seems the most dangerous scary is what we should run towards. Run towards the roar!

7. Next Steps.....11:15 to 11:25 AM

Gina said that even though we are not going to meet together as a Council anymore, we still need to take the last action step. Gina requested that all Council members hold 1-2 listening sessions in their communities. You don't need to do it alone – we will help you. Build awareness for the report in the community. Share why the work is beneficial. We have a role now to tackle some of the biases, inequities. If one member of our state is suffering, we are all suffering.

Gina talked about things that members can do. Once the final publication is released, Council members should prepare public statements and be willing to host a press conference in their community announcing the final report. Work with local media for opportunities to be on guest morning shows, ask community groups for time on board and stakeholder meeting agendas to discuss the final report and recommendations. Attend local (or statewide) conferences or community meetings to discuss the final report. Consider submitting an article to your local newspaper about how the GHEC final report will improve the quality of life of Wisconsinites. Host strategy sessions with local advocacy groups. Arrange to meet with your local, regional, and state elected officials to discuss the final report and ask for their support. Share the report with as many people as possible. Post on social media.

8. Member Reflections.....11:25 to 11:30 AM

Vincent Lyles shared some of his experiences. He mentioned it is an honor to be on the Council. He has been fortunate and has gotten to know a lot of us over the years. We are at a crossroads of where to go. The state used to be progressive, and now we are slipping dramatically. He was able to be the voice for people who could not be here, and he takes great pride in representing them. Advocacy is critical. This requires us to do extra beyond our day jobs to get this accomplished.

9. Questions.....11:30 to 11:35 AM

Q: Gale: Thank you for your leadership Madam Chair

Prepared by: Donna Wong on 6/10/2022.

These minutes are in draft form.

DRAFT