

OPEN MEETING MINUTES

Name of Governmental Body: Governor's Health Equity Council		Attending: Lt. Gov. Mandela Barnes, Secretary-designee Karen Timberlake, Dr. Michelle Robinson, Paula Tran, Lillian Paine, Gina Green-Harris, Dr. Jasmine Zapata, Maria Barker, Janel Hines, Ellen Sexton, William Parke-Sutherland, Shiva Bidar-Sielaff, Sandra Brekke, Jerry Waukau, Guy (Anahkwet) Reiter, Dr. Amy DeLong, Wanda Montgomery, Elizabeth Valitchka, Gale Johnson, Isaak Mohamed, Diane Erickson, Patricia Metropulos, Vincent Lyles	
Date: 9/15/2021	Time Started: 1:00pm	Time Ended: 4:00pm	
Location: Zoom		Presiding Officer: Gina Green-Harris, Chair	
Minutes			

AGENDA

1. Welcome, overview of agenda, updates

Gina Green-Harris, Chair

- Gina welcomed Council members; introduced the new Project Manager who will be supporting the Council's work, Cassie Frankel; provided an update on where the recommendation phase of work is right now; requested 1 volunteer from Council to support the Department of Health Services' Health Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Advisory Body and the Department of Children and Families' Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Board – please reach out to Gina directly or email the DHS GHEC email address; also reviewed our operating principles and encouraged members to attend meetings to help with quorum and improve participation
- Gina went back to review the shared values from the first Council meeting to re-center our work around our core values
- Gina also shared the massive investment that the State has put towards supporting the Council via staff support resources and the many meetings that happen occur behind the scenes to coordinate the work
- Gina reflected back on the timeline of where we've come from, to where we are now, and where we are headed in the future within the LEARN – CREATE – RECOMMEND framework

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

- Dr. Zapata moved to approve minutes
- Shiva seconded
- Motion passed – minutes approved

3. Agency Updates

Governor's Office – Nadiyah Groves (Director of the Governor's Milwaukee Office)

- Update on how the State is supporting our Afghan guests – we have received almost all of the donations that we requested (including a sizeable donation of yoga mats, which will allow them to engage in their prayers and observe their religion)
- Back-to-school – testing continues to be implemented in schools (64% in public school districts, ~16% in private/charter schools)
- Funding to support schools

- \$58.4m investment of ARPA funding into LTHDs
- \$4.5m APRA funding for mental health emergency center in MKE (combined w DHS funding for total of \$7m)
- CORE – Conversations On Racial Equity from Gov and Lt Gov offices

Lt. Governor Mandela Barnes

- Expressed excitement for next phase of the Council's work
- Provided an update on the American Public Human Services Association Conference – was able to moderate a panel on economic mobility and opportunity with Nadiyah and Bianca Shaw from DHS; lived experience is such a valuable part of this conversation
 - As we move out of the pandemic, we need to focus on economic mobility and opportunity which will help secure better outcomes for individuals and families across Wisconsin

Department of Health Services – Secretary-designee Karen Timberlake

- Sec. Timberlake provided updates on DHS staff changes:
 - Dep. Sec. Julie Willems Van Dijk retired from state service, after a 40-year career in public health and providing critical leadership during COVID-19 response
 - If anyone would like to pass a note along to Julie, please email Karen directly
 - Deb Standridge was introduced as new Dep. Secretary
 - Paula Tran has been appointed as DHS State Health Officer/Division of Public Health Administrator
- Ft. McCoy – have been partnering with Govs Office and the Department of Children and Families, and Wisconsin Emergency Management, WI Department of Military Affairs, and many federal partners who are working with us
 - DHS has been working to ensure that all arriving guests are screened for any health needs, pregnancy, COVID-19, other critical healthcare needs are addressed as much as they can be on-base, as well as coordinating with the region's hospitals (located in Monroe Co)
 - There is a mass vaccination effort there today to ensure that guests get all of the vaccinations that they may need
- COVID-19 – coming to the last few days of the \$100 incentive program for people who get their first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine until Sunday 9/19
 - People have until the end of September to register for the reward
 - 115,000 people have gotten their first dose since we began program on 8/20
- COVID-19 – DHS also updated data today on breakthrough infection data
 - Rate of new infection is 4 times higher for unvaccinated people (vs. fully vaccinated); rate of hospitalization is 9 times higher; and rate of death is 11 times higher
- Division of Medicaid Services – helping to bolster Medicaid managed services to provide access and opportunity to members for COVID-19 vaccination
- DHS has been able to administer a food assistance program for school-age kids and families of school-age kids during the pandemic (for children who are enrolled in the free and reduced-price lunch program)
 - This program ensured that children still had access to nutrition and food assistance while they were maybe not in-person at school

- This has been a collaborative effort with the Department of Public Instruction, school districts, LTHDs, and other local partners
- Three programs in total: one for school-age, one for children younger than 6, and a summer program

Department of Children and Families – Dr. Michelle Robinson

- Ft. McCoy – DCF’s role is in coordinating donation efforts and responding to inquiries we receive from media and people interested in providing assistance
 - Because they have not had time to go through the formal refugee process, they are not eligible for TANF assistance but DCF is working with Federal partners to figure out how to connect them with these kinds of resources and supports
- Division of Early Care and Education
 - Equity Advisory Council: elevate lived experience and incorporate beneficiary and community into DECE decision-making
 - PDG Health Consultation Project: improving quality of and access to ECE programs through the provision of health consultation
- Division of Family and Economic Security
 - BAR: exploring new ways of collecting and analyzing data to understand the impact of systemic racism on programs and participants
 - Wisconsin Intergenerational Poverty Reduction Initiative
 - Vetting a financial coaching program, “Stand by me” which has been associated with increases in credit scores, home ownership, and income – and significant decreases in debt
 - Domestic Violence Task Force
 - Adoption of high-priority recommendations to improve Emergency Assistance program
- Division of Milwaukee Child Protective Services
 - Will be releasing a Stronger Families Request for Proposals in the next couple of weeks
- Division of Management Services
 - DCF Data Catalog – designed to make data easier to find and support efficient research across the agency
 - Supporting Statewide IT Strategic Plan – plan for statewide open data portal for citizens
- Division of Safety and Permanence
 - Family First Prevention Services Act – prevention plan will focus on services to support the health and wellbeing needs of families
 - Racial Equity Tool – positions child welfare system in WI to be more proactive in shaping policies and programs that promote health equity and improved outcomes for children and families
- **Questions on agency updates:**
 - Dr. Zapata: implications of vaccine mandates on health equity – inequities in job security or people falsifying cards and potentially going in to the criminal-legal system – how can we combat some of the ripple effects of that on some of our communities of color
 - Sec. Timberlake: DHS is hearing similar concerns; the way that these requirements are rolled out will be key – for example a testing requirement that can be adopted as a way for folks to continue employment; longer roll-out for this requirement; need to partner with locals to engage in targeted efforts

to address access barriers; and DHS needs to work with WEDC to ensure that employers and business owners are encouraged to offer mitigation measures to workers and that termination of employment is a last-resort option

- Shiva Bidar-Sielaff seconded this concern, especially around undocumented workers

4. Process updates – Drafting and Framing Phases (next three months)

Michelle Robinson, Vice-Chair

- Dr. Robinson provided an update on the upcoming phases of work
- Drafting Phase (September 28 – November 23)
 - There will be support resources available to Council members (Agency Point Person and other DHS staff support)
 - There is a draft template to help guide this process
- Prioritization Phase (September 13 – 27)
 - Choosing what subset of the 63 ideations are we spending the next two months on to develop into full, major recommendations
 - Each subcommittee is charged with developing its own process for prioritizing recommendations

5. BREAK

6. Framing Training – Frameworks Institute

Moira O’Neill, Frameworks Institute

7. Public Comment

There was no public comment

8. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn:

Seconded

Motion approved – meeting adjourned

Comments from Chat:

- William Parke-Sutherland: Will there be an update on the process of Medicaid enrollment after the public health emergency has ended and that plan from a health equity lens?
- DHS response: “We are happy to take that back to the DHS team and discuss how we can provide a more complete update on our plans at an upcoming GHEC meeting”

Prepared by: C.Culp on 15 September, 2021.

These minutes are in draft form. They will be presented for approval by the governmental body on: 11/17/2021