

# HENNEPIN COUNTY

## MINNESOTA

### Race Equity Advisory Council Meeting Notes

Date: April 15, 2021

Time: 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm

Location: MS Teams

Council members present: Amani Berry, Biiftuu Ibrahim Adam, , Farhia Mohamed, Johnathon McClellan, Larry Hiscock, Latasha Jennings, Mahogany Ellis Crutchfield, Maimon Queeglay, Mukul Nautiyal, Sheila Webb, Tekia Jefferson

Council members not present: Alexis Murillo, Debjyoti Dwivedy, Deran Cadotte, Farhia Mohamed, Paul Beshah.

County Staff: Mercy Das, Randy Larson, Robert Gruba, Steve Voller, Vinodh Kutty

Guests: Alisa Salewski, Kelsey Dawson-Walton, Hue Lee, Joan Vanhala, Pa-Shie Vang, Maggie Heurung

Meeting was broadcast on MS Teams live for public viewing.

- 1) April meeting agenda approved  
Mahogany Ellis Crutchfield moved to approve, Tekia Jefferson seconded. 10 Ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstain.
- 2) March meeting notes approved.  
Tekia Jefferson moved to approve, Amani Berry seconded. 10 Ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstain
- 3) REAC response to the killing of Daunte Wright  
A memo will be sent to County Commissioners and leadership with recommendations to
  - o Address the trauma of community at 66<sup>th</sup> and Humboldt and support through rent, mental health and other supports; develop a year long plan of support.
  - o Condemn attacks against peaceful protests and support 1<sup>st</sup> amendment right to protest
  - o Ban the use of non-lethal projectiles and chemical weapons use against protestors
  - o Support the police reform legislative efforts
  - o Acknowledge that black mental health is deteriorating this is a result of racism's impact on public health

Johnathon McLellan, Larry Hiscock, Latasha Jennings, Miamon Quigley, Mukul Nautiyal, Sheila Webb and Tekia Jefferson will work on this memo to be sent to be sent to County Commissioners and Administration on Monday.

Tekia Jefferson moved to approve, Sheila Webb seconded. 10 Ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstain

4) Hennepin County Engagement Strategy: Kelsey Dawson-Walton, Engagement Services Division Manager, Communication and Engagement Services

Information about the current county engagement strategies was provided. Members had questions about how performance is measured and improvements made, role of engagement in census and elections, how the Race Equity Impact Tool is being used in engagement and partnership with the community.

- Creating feedback loops via Survey 123, document who was engaged, how many contacted, information shared
- Census
  - Worked with Community Organizations to get Census information to communities
  - Census engagement specialists organized community events and targeted communities with low response counts
  - Provided election information – where to vote, how to register, etc.
  - contracted with community organization, cultural groups and trusted individuals for feedback for improvement on what worked and what didn't
- REIT: Exploring how to use it to co-create with community organizations.

Pillsbury United Communities (PUC) Community Engagement Project information: Alisa Salewski; Chief Innovation Officer; and Vinodh Kutty, Senior Manager, Partnerships, Engagement and Initiatives, Center of Innovation and Excellence.

PUC received funding from the Kresge foundation and the county is partnering with PUC to enhance community engagement.

Members had questions about how the county will support PUC after the 3 year grant, how REAC will be informed about community input, priorities and solutions.

- The partnership is in its early stages. PUC and the County leadership are exploring ways to continue the partnership; nothing is concrete or decided
- PUC and County are working together to ensure diversity in residents who are being engaged.
- Report will be shared with REAC

5) American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 memo to County Commissioners and Administration.

Hennepin County has been allocated \$240 million from the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARP) and members wanted to provide community input proactively. Since this funding is for mitigating the effects of the pandemic, suggestions have been framed with a racism as a public health crisis lens. These ideas came from the committees at their meetings. The ideas will be sent to County Commissioners and County Administrators in a memo.

Motion: Latasha Jennings. Seconded: Johnathon McClellan. 10 Ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstain.

6) Updates from Committees:

- Child Protection: Mahogany Ellis-Crutchfield
  - Work moving forward.
  - Made recommendations for the ARP funds

- Civic Engagement: Sheila Webb
  - Developed recommendations for ARP
- Education: No report since Farhia Mohamed was unable to attend.
- Housing: Larry Hiscock
  - Meeting every two weeks.
  - Convening stakeholders knowledgeable about housing to hear recommendations. Two sessions coming up.
  - Provided recommendations for ARP
- Public Safety/Justice: Latasha Jennings
  - Provided recommendations for ARP
  - Need to solidify priorities.
  - Johnathon McClellan will be the new chair of this committee.

7) Announcements and discussion

- Meeting agenda requests will be posted in Basecamp. Please respond with your suggestions by the 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of the month. Leadership will make final decision
- Report structure—We had a meeting to discuss this and we have a preliminary structure. When you meet, Committee chairs can provide more details.
- Commissioners Meet and Greet: May: LaTondresse; June: Greene; July: Conley
- Commissioner Fernando was unable to come today, can we have two commissioners in June--Yes
- Latasha has moved out of Hennepin County so will leave REAC; Commissioner Greene will appoint a replacement. Paul Beshah has been unable to participate and will leave REAC.
- Leadership transition. Tekia will become Chair when Latasha transitions out on April 30th.
- Elections for all positions will be at May meeting. Send your interest to Mercy on basecamp. You'll have opportunity to present your candidacy before voting.

Time commitment for leadership

- Meetings weekly sometimes.
  - Be available on short notice during the week as needed
  - Be available to review and approve documents.
  - Track work of all committees and make changes as needed.
  - Work closely with Mercy
- Dr Rachel Hardeman will be presenting at Hennepin County on May 18<sup>th</sup> from noon to 1:00 pm on the intersection of Race, Health and Justice. All are welcome to attend.

8) Meeting adjourned on motion by Mahogany Ellis Crutchfield and seconded by Sheila Webb. 9 Ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstain.