

Race Equity Advisory Council

Date: Thursday, August 17, 2023

Time: 6-8 p.m.

Location: NorthPoint Conference Center

Council members present: Paola Ehrmantraut, Susan McPherson, April Salchert, Samba Fall, Bill Tipping

Council members not present: Bocar Kane, Roberta Reindorf, Raquel Jarabek, Jigar Mistry, Esther Mwangi, Joan Blakely, Olufunso Oresanya, Yolanda Rogers

County Staff: Shawn Sorrell, Vernona Boswell

Guest: Sheriff Witt, HCA Moriarty, Jamael Lundy (HCAO), Catherine Fleming ([Project Sweetie Pie – Planting the seeds of change](#))

Notes

Approved current month agenda

Motion: Samba Second: April
All in favor, July meeting agenda is approved

Approved past month meeting notes

Motion: Samba Second: April
All in favor, meeting notes are approved

Welcome and introductions

- Agenda reviewed and guests welcomed

Guest speaker – Hennepin County Sheriff, Dawanna Witt

- Speaker shared their personal and professional stories; advised on top priorities of violent crime prevention, opioid response, jail education program [HOPE](#), deputy recruitment/retention and community engagement. When asked about supporting residency requirements, Sheriff mentioned preferring deputy character over geographics. Sheriff discussed information sharing and [HCSO newsletter](#).

Guest speaker – Hennepin County attorney Mary Moriarty (with Jamael Lundy)

- Speakers shared an overview of current HCAO priorities voting rights restoration, addressing challenges of incarceration and probation, [prosecutor initiated resentencing](#), development of Conviction Integrity Unit, youth crime intervention programs [Family Response and Stabilization Service](#), and substance abuse diversion. Expressed a desire for community support around gun violence reduction and Group Violence intervention programs and increased partnerships with local law enforcement. When asked about MN youth life with out parole, HCA advised MN legislature banned in 2023. Inquiries around other programs such as Joint Community Policing Program (JCPP), juvenile out of hope placement and [closing of Youth Residential Treatment Center \(formerly known as the Hennepin County Home School\)](#) was addressed by a desire to collaborate with county departments and other jurisdictions to increase youth continuum of care in the community similar to [Ramsey County new juvenile justice program](#).

REAC structure

- REAC officers met with county staff to follow-up on our meeting structure discussion during our last meeting. We believe that these modifications will continue to support membership development and advance the purpose of REAC. We plan to move forward by:
 - Agenda setting Creating a more collaborative agenda – asking for members to submit agenda items for consideration.
 - Presentations format and managing presentation discussions – seeking to utilize a process to better manage Q&A, not limited to increased time whenever possible.
 - REAC members to consider tools and options
 - County staff to share request for presentation form
 - County staff to share template for REAC member bios
 - Committee participation and increasing committee participation – sharing meeting schedules, dedicating agenda time for updates and accountability (noted all current members have selected a committee)

Committee Updates

- Income (next meeting Tue Aug 22 6pm - 8pm)
 - Theming and narrowing topics
- Mental Health (meetings TBD)
 - Met with Christa Mims, notes to be shared via basecamp

- Progress and Accountability (next meeting Wed Aug 16 5pm-8pm)
 - Met and working to organize
- Members discussed community participation and notifications of meetings
 - Community is invited to attend and review information [online](#), mentioned a desire for additional forms of communication and marketing REAC
- Discussed scheduling future presentation from Community Outreach and Engagement Department

August Meeting Location

- Group agreed that they like the NorthPoint Conference Center as a location and moved to a vote.

Motion for next meeting at NorthPoint location: Samba Second: Bill

All in favor, motion passes

Adjourn

Motion: Samba Second: Susan

All in favor, motion passes