

Racial Equity in Public Health Commission

Executive Director: Pareesa Charmchi Goodwin

Co-Chair: Claudio Gualtieri, Undersecretary for Health and Human Services, OPM

Co-Chair: Ayesha Clarke, Interim Executive Director, Health Equity Solutions

Regular Commission Meeting Minutes

Thursday, October 20th, 2022

4:00 PM-5:30 PM

165 Capitol Avenue, Hartford

Members Present: Co-Chair Ayesha Clarke, Co-Chair Claudio Gualtieri, Melissa Santos, Hilda Santiago, Heather Aaron, Jodi Hill-Lilly (for Vanessa Dorantes, DCF), Astread Ferron-Poole, Kyle Abercrombie, John Frassinelli, Marina Marmolejo, Laura Morris, Eulalia Garcia (for Craig Burns, DOC), Annie Decker (for Katie Dykes, DEEP), Leonard Jahad, Tiffany Donelson, Steven Hernández

Guest Presenters & Commission Staff Present: Mark Abraham, Dr. William Clark, Scott Gaul, Pareesa Charmchi Goodwin, Muna Abbas, Gretchen Marin

Members Absent: Chavon Hamilton-Burgess, Kenyatta Muzzani, Carline Charmelus, Mary Daughtery Abrams, Jonathan Steinberg, Travis Simms, Kean Zimmerman, Diana Reyes, Tammy Hendricks

Opening Remarks from the Co-Chairs

Gualtieri called the meeting to order at 4:18 PM and welcomed Commission members and the public.

Meeting Minutes Approval

Approval of the July meeting minutes was tabled for the next meeting.

Public Comments

Gabriel Fallas from UNITE US discussed the importance of perspective on strategy, with a focus on data. He recommends the Commission keep the following in mind as they move forward with their mission: How are health and healthcare tracked? How is "disparity" being defined? Importance of socioeconomic and non-socioeconomic data. Establishment of data reporting measurements. Health outcomes can be measured. Recommends use of CDC data, specifically "Healthy Days" and other CDC data.

Introductions

New Commission Members

Laura Morris- Office of Health Strategy

Ayesha Clarke- Interim Executive Director, Equity Solutions and CREPH Co-chair

Eulalia Garcia- District Administrator, DOC. DA Garcia will be taking the place of Dr. Craig Burns as he transitions roles.

New Commission Staff

Pareesa Charmchi Goodwin introduces two new staff members:

- Muna Abbas-Associate Commission Analyst
- Gretchen Marin-Commission Analyst

Guest Presentations

Charmchi Goodwin introduced presenters and guests:

- Mark Abraham, Executive Director of DataHaven presented on equity-focused data in CT.
- Scott Gaul, Chief Data Officer, OPM was in attendance to offer his expertise on type of data collected by the state and how to collect it.
- Dr. William Clark, Consultant & Principal at Eli Patrick & Co. designed the interactive metrics and recommendations assessment tool for use at today's meeting.

Mark Abraham- DataHaven

DataHaven is a non-profit with 30-year history of public service to CT. Data they make available comes from federal, state, and local sources. DataHaven has conducted thousands of structured interviews with randomly selected adults in CT.

Abraham presented on the importance of the disaggregation of data. Disaggregating data helps to contextualize the data. Discussed how the disaggregation of data can paint a very different, and more accurate, picture.

Dr. William Clark

Introduced an interactive metric tool designed to help the subcommittees refine their goals and narrow down the metrics they will use to measure these goals. Clark explained that data is simply a tool used to tell a story. Take complex data sets. What story are you telling? Who are you telling the story to? Why are you doing it? What's the bottom line?

Subcommittee Breakout Rooms

The Commission members separated into their subcommittee groups to discuss, affirm, or make further recommendation to metrics the Commission will regularly report. The Structural Racism subcommittee instead reviewed and discussed a set of proposals regarding state hiring practices, in service of the Commission's duties described in Section 4 of Public Act 21-35. Dr. Clark facilitated the Structural Racism subcommittee conversation.

Abraham, Gaul, Clarke, Gualtieri, and Charmchi Goodwin floated from subcommittee to subcommittee to lend their expertise.

Good of the Order

There were no comments from members.

Next Steps

CREPH staff will synthesize the subcommittee responses and reflections and share it with the membership and the public. CREPH Co-Chairs and Executive Director will schedule the next meeting and circulate the date and information with the membership and the public.

Adjournment

Gualtieri adjourned the meeting at 5:35 PM.