



# COMMISSION ON RACIAL EQUITY IN PUBLIC HEALTH

CONNECTICUT GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Co-Chairs: Claudio Gualtieri, Undersecretary for Health and Human Services &  
Ayesha Clarke, Executive Director, Health Equity Solutions

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## Full Commission Meeting

Monday, April 24<sup>th</sup>, 2023

12:30 PM – 1:30 PM

**Virtual: Zoom**

**Members Present:** Co-Chair Ayesha Clarke (HES), Co-Chair Claudio Gualtieri (OPM) Carline Charmelus (PSC), Annie Decker (DEEP), Senator Saud Anwar (PH), Tiffany Donelson (CHF), Astread Ferron-Poole (DSS), John Frassinelli (SDE), DA Eulalia Garcia (DOC), Leonard Jahad (arrived after roll call) (violence intervention rep), Marina Marmolejo (DOH), Laura Morris (OHS), DC Lisa Morrissey (DPH), Rep. Hilda Santiago (BPRC), Melissa Santos (CCMC), Rep. Travis Simms (arrived after roll call) (BPRC), Kean Zimmerman (Bar Association)

**Commission Staff Present:** Pareesa Charmchi Goodwin, Muna Abbas, Gretchen Marin

**Members Absent:** Kyle Abercrombie (DECD), Commissioner Vanessa Dorantes (DCF), Chavon Hamilton-Burgess (racial equity nonprofit rep), Tammy Hendricks (Access Health CT), Steven Hernández (CWCSEO), Kenyatta Muzzani (KATAL), Diana Reyes (OEC), Rep. Cristin McCarthy Vahey (PH),

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### Opening Remarks from the Co-Chair

Co-chair Gualtieri called the meeting to order at 12:33 pm.

Co-chair Gualtieri recognized Co-Chair Clarke on officially becoming the Executive Director of Health Equity Solutions.

Co-chair Gualtieri called the roll and a quorum was established.

### Meeting Minutes Approval

Roll call vote to approve 02/27/23 meeting minutes. No nays. Five abstentions. Minutes approved 9-0-5.

### Presentation by the Office of Policy & Management

Co-chair Gualtieri and Heather Ferguson-Hull from OPM provided an overview of key equity items from the Governor's proposed budget.

### **Presentation by Executive Director Goodwin (CREPH)**

- Agenda items 4 and 7 were merged into one item in the interest of time.
- Racial/Ethnic Disparity Data and Structural Racism reports are in the works and nearing completion.
- Disparity Data Report, Gallery, and Reception- May 17<sup>th</sup>, 5-7pm at the Legislative Office Building (LOB) Atrium. Data will be on display in the LOB concourse from May 16<sup>th</sup>-31<sup>st</sup>.
- Community Engagement Advisors will be meeting and planning activities starting in May.
- Strategic Planning coming summer of 2023. The commission plans to work with a consultant to develop the strategic plan. Commission staff will work on developing a Scope of Work for the Request for Proposals (RFP) by enlisting ideas from commission members and stake holders regarding the process.

### **Bylaws Discussion**

- Co-chair Gualtieri summarized two changes to the bylaws draft which included:
  - Commission meetings may be conducted in-person, virtually, or in a hybrid setting with advanced notice to commission members.
  - Proxy voting will be allowed in a form and manner as directed by the Executive Director. The Executive Director can develop a process with clear guidance from the appointed entity of who their proxy will be and what their proxy can vote on. This process will ensure accountability and transparency on proxy voting.
- Roll call vote. Bylaws adopted 15-0-0.

### **Public Comments**

- None

### **Good of the Order**

- Co-chair Gualtieri shared that the Biden-Harris Administration announced \$550 million in grants to advance environmental justice. The purpose of this funding is to expedite investment to reduce pollution in our most disadvantaged and underserved communities. A link to this opportunity will be emailed to the commission.

### **Adjournment**

Co-chair Gualtieri adjourned the meeting at 1:30pm.