



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

Full Commission Meeting

Monday, February 27th, 2023¹

12:30 PM – 1:30 PM

Legislative Office Building, 300 Capitol Ave, Hartford, CT 06106
Ground Floor Hearing Room, 1A

Members Present: Co-Chair Ayesha Clarke (HES), Co-Chair Claudio Gualtieri (OPM), Kyle Abercrombie (DECD), Carline Charmelus (PSC), Annie Decker (DEEP), Tiffany Donelson (CHF), John Frassinelli (SDE), Chavon Hamilton-Burgess (racial equity nonprofit rep), Leonard Jahad (violence intervention rep), Marina Marmolejo (DOH), DC Lisa Morrisey (DPH), Rep. Hilda Santiago (BPRC), Talith Coggins (Representing Astread Ferron-Poole, DSS)

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

Members Absent: Senator Saud Anwar (PH), Commissioner Vannessa Dorantes (DCF), DA Eulalia Garcia (DOC), Tammy Hendricks (Access Health), Steven Hernández (CWCSEO), Laura Morris (OHS), Kenyatta Muzzani (KATAL), Diana Reyes (OEC), Melissa Santos (CCMC), Rep. Travis Simms (BPRC), Rep. Cristin McCarthy Vahey (PH), Kean Zimmerman (Bar Association)

Opening Remarks from the Co-Chair

Co-chair Clarke called the meeting to order at 12:39 pm. Co-chair Gualtieri called the roll and established a quorum.

Meeting Minutes Approval

Voice vote to approve 12/12/22 meeting minutes. No nays. Two abstentions. Minutes approved 11-0-2

Bylaws Discussion

- Co-chair Gualtieri called attention to specific parts of the bylaws draft which included:
 - Statutorily, the co-chairs can name interim appointments for vacancies if appointing authority has failed to make an appointment. The bylaws draft includes this authority. If co-chairs make interim appointments, they will notify the appointing authority.

¹ Post Meeting Note: Correction made to year of meeting.

- Attendance requirements. Active participation expected and member may be removed from the commission for failure to attend 50% of or three (3) consecutive meetings.
- Proxy voting is not permitted in the draft bylaws. Members discussed the potential benefits of proxy voting, and guardrails or process for utilizing proxies.
- Commission members discussed the use of electronic devices to attend meetings
- Motions passed for changes to the draft bylaws:
 - Allow co-chairs and executive director to hold meetings in-person, virtually, or hybrid as appropriate.
 - Allow members to vote by proxy, for the purposes of carrying out the will of the appointed member. The executive director must be notified about proxy voters by the Commission member prior to the meeting, in a form determined by the executive director.
- Co-chair Clarke announced quorum no longer exists due to early departure of one (1) commission member. Staff will amend the draft bylaws according to the two (2) passed motions and the draft will be recirculated for discussion and adoption at the following Commission meeting.

Health Equity Solutions (HES) Presentation (Karen Siegel, HES)

- HES framework to advance health equity at a state level. Clear set of proposals to advance health equity are needed.
- [Path to Equity](#) guide developed. Guide divided into seven sections:
 1. Anti-racist structures: people and structures display racism
 2. Diversity and Inclusion: who is at the table; being open and respectful to those who are normally underrepresented
 3. Access: meets the needs of people seeking the service
 4. Affordability: zeroes in on being able to afford the services
 5. Economic Stability: households meeting their needs, especially when faced with unexpected emergencies
 6. Opportunities: to be healthy, focusing on upstream factors such as navigator supports, environments that are safe and healthy (both inside the home and around it)
 7. Solidarity: over 50 organizations have signed on in support of the *Path to Equity* guide
- Co-chair Gualtieri comments that this guide provides a good framework, particularly for when we get to strategic planning.
- Full *Path to Equity Guide* and slideshow will be emailed to commission members.

Public Comments

- None

Good of the Order

- Co-chair Gualtieri announced Robert Wood Johnson Foundation grant opportunity
- Remaining agenda items (OPM budget overview and Senator Anwar remarks) will be postponed to a future CREPH meeting

Adjournment

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