

## Racial Equity Committee Meeting

1/16/2024

Committee members: DaQuanta Copeland, Letha Williams, Johnnie Thomas, Jacques Kittrell

Staff support: Michelle Zechmann

Vistors: Stephen Gruver, Nicole Stewart

Stephen Gruver welcomed everyone to the meeting and each person introduced themselves. Stephen shared that this is a new committee, and we are still accepting members. He then shared the overview statement of the Racial Equity Committee:

*The Racial Equity Committee evaluates the CoC policies and data related to racial equity to ensure that access to safe and affordable services and housing is the norm for African American, American Indian, and LatinX peoples. This group monitors the extent that marginalized populations are overrepresented in the homeless system and recommends policy changes based on data and best practices.*

The hope is that the Committee makes recommendations for system changes. The Governance Committee also would like to see this group research racial equity best practices in homeless service systems with a goal to identify one or two big things that can impact the system.

DaQuanta wanted to make sure the committee recognized the importance of including other areas in Wake County not just in Raleigh.

There was also discussion about the role of this committee - action committee or advisory committee. Stephen shared that this committee is advisory to the Governance Committee.

There was discussion about selecting a chair of the committee whose responsibilities would include: setting meeting dates and agendas, facilitating Committee meetings, reporting to the Governance board, and joining quarterly meeting with all chairs.

There was interest in knowing what policies the CoC has authority over – Stephen will come back to the group with this information.

Johnnie and DaQuanta both put forth their names for chair. There was a suggestion made that they co-chair the committee together. All approved.

Future meeting dates – Third Tuesday of the month at 3pm.

For the next meeting everyone should bring:

- Their definition of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) and how it relates to homelessness
- Try to recruit 2 people to the meeting.

**Next meeting will be February 20<sup>th</sup>.** DaQuanta will send a calendar invite with a virtual meeting link.