

Racial Equity Committee Meeting

3/19/2024

Present committee members: DaQuanta Copeland, Johnnie Thomas, Harry Davis Jr.

Staff support: Michelle Zechmann, Erin Flynn

Meeting start time: 3:03 PM

DaQuanta Copeland welcomes everyone to the meeting. Introduced Harry Davis Jr. as a new member of the committee.

DaQuanta and Johnnie Thomas want to get with Stephen Gruver and Nicole Stewart about how to best run this committee, as it is a new committee. Also, they want to investigate ways to recruit more diverse people to the committee and have more of the underrepresented populations (i.e. Muslim, Asian, LGBTQ+, etc.). They want to have a higher platform for these individuals to be represented by. DaQuanta and Johnnie will be getting together this week to discuss agenda materials to assist in helping these communities that they want to better represent. Discussion was had on who should be in the room (those who want to support the work of this committee).

Michelle Zechmann talks about wanting Racial Equity Gap data to be collected. Wants quantitative data to be collected to get the minute data. Also wants to use this data to see where the impact is needed the most. DaQuanta states, "Governing from the bottom up and not the top down."

DaQuanta calls for any questions or comments. Asks Erin Flynn if she wants to join the committee in a more official capacity, not just note taking. Erin says she would love to.

DaQuanta: To be thought about and discussed: Who are the services providers, who is being served and what does that look like?

Johnnie states he wants to come up with a formal letter for Stephen and Nicole to look at and forward to HMIS/DAC to send over information about service providers and what they do. Funding is late for those who are re-entering into homelessness, and he wants to see the statistics of these issues to see where the gaps are. Johnnie shares lived experience and what can be an issue for those in the community who need services being turned off those programs because of the way they are approached. This data could help us understand where the gaps are in how people are approached to get their support. Johnnie explains that he wants to document everything for official purposes, which is why they want to write a letter.

Michelle: She can get the data but needs more information about what kind of data we need.

Wants to start with provider list and who they are serving by race form BitFocus.

DaQuanta: We as a committee do not need to seek permission, we can just ask for the data.

Johnnie: I want more specific information from each provider because not all information is submitted/recorded.

DaQuanta: We can not go to one specific person to ask questions about their experience (HIPPA violation) but a broader community survey that is anonymous can be sent out for people to come to us and tell us their story.

Michelle: Let's come back next month with some proposed questions for the survey. We can post the survey on the website and through the newsletter. The link can then be sent out to others in the community to be posted to collect the data.

The issue of Membership Meeting being a conflict with the April REC meeting was brought up. Suggested to just stay after membership meeting to have REC meeting.

Next meeting will be April 16th @ 2:45 PM in person after the April CoC Membership Meeting.

DaQuanta: Requests that we bring in a DEI mindset.

Meeting adjourned: 3:50 PM