

Community Equity Advisory Board

June 11, 2024
Noon - 1:00 pm
Zoom meeting

Attendees: Kurtis Enick, Van Kuno, Mindy Woods, Rabi Yuguda, Giselle Zapata-Garcia

Absent: John Agyapong, DanVon'ique Bletson-Reed, Clarence Shaw, Lika Smith, Taniela Tokailagi

Department

Staff: Dennis Worsham, Pia Sampaga-Khim, Nicole Thomsen, Helen Wong, Kelly Grimsley

Meeting Minutes

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Helen Wong at 12:05. The meeting was held via Zoom video conference. There was a quorum present.

Approval of Minutes

It was moved by Van Kuno and seconded by Mindy Woods to approve the meeting minutes of May 14, 2024. The motion passed unanimously.

Director's Update

Dennis Worsham started his update by reminding the group that the work in equity we're doing is a long commitment and passion of his like it is for the group. He stated that everyone in the group have not only lived through the pandemic, but have witnessed the long historic issues of racism in this country either at a personal level or historically watching it unfold among friends, family, etc. One of the things that many health departments have done over the country is to begin to identify racism as a public health crisis. We really need to lean in and do something different from a public health perspective. We know that racism is a determinant of health. We need to create an environment of setting universal goals of health for all people, but developing targeted approaches that are specific to communities. Our mission in this county is to be setting universal goals and targeted approaches to reach all communities of folks where they are at and where we take them, to building on the resiliency that they bring and also removing barriers in order to get there. That is our journey.

Currently we have moved into getting a permanent position hired for the equity director job that Helen has been serving as the interim in. We have more community representation than we've had in the past and all of these pieces are really important to advancing. The Department is going through a process right now with our strategic planning efforts and we're setting a course for the Health Department's next 3 to 5 years. We're asking each of our divisions, programs, and teams to incorporate equity as part of their goals and objectives. As a department we'll have a specific goal around equity, inclusion and belonging and how we really move the work forward. We have a contract with an organization that will be working very closely with us as a consultant to do both an internal and external assessment on how we are doing as a Public Health department in addressing equity in health and how we're engaging with the community. We want all members of the CEAB to be part of the journey of setting goals, objectives and then holding ourselves accountable to really advancing equity in our community.

Equity CEAB/ETILT Retreat

The retreat is scheduled for June 21, 2024 at the Indigo Hotel in Everett.

Next Meeting

July 9, 2024, 12:00 - 1:00PM via Zoom