

Community Equity Advisory Board

September 10, 2024
Noon - 1:00 pm
Zoom meeting

Attendees: DanVon'ique Bletson-Reed, Kurtis Enick, Van Kuno, Lika Smith, Rabi Yuguda, Giselle Zapata-Garcia

Absent: John Agyapong, Clarence Shaw, Taniela Tokailagi, Mindy Woods

Department

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

Guest

Presenters: Mark Del Beccaro, Katie Meehan, Paj Nandi

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 not a quorum present.

Director's Report

Dennis Worsham updated the board on how the Department is working hard to have the strategic plan in place and moving forward. We now have a clear direction and statement about what we're trying to do and what our values are. Dennis stated this board has given very valuable input and now he will be presenting the Departments budget to the County Council on October 8th. One thing that will be important to this group is that the Department is approximately 80 – 85% grant funded, so sustainability of programs and services is always a challenge. The Department has made a commitment in grants that they have a strong equity component built into them and going forward, we will be strengthening that even more. The Department is bringing in a consultant to work with our leadership and supervisors to start thinking about what does racial equity and health mean in our community. The consultant group is invited to this meeting to help facilitate part of the conversation today.

SCHD Strategic Plan Update/Focus Group

Katie Meehan, Paj Nandi and Mark Del Beccaro from the Upstream Consulting Group. The Upstream group focuses on assisting organizations and agencies to put equity into practice through policies, system changes and everything else. The Upstream group is working in two phases with the Department. Currently in phase one, is capturing "where are things at in the Health Department" by looking at internal engagements, policies and plans that are in place. When phase 2 begins they'll be back in November to formally engage the Board in "where we're looking at and where do we want to be?" Today the group is looking at the conversations the Board is having and the work that's underway from the strategic plan level. Helen Wong had a special thanks to the Community Equity Advisory Board for showing up and participating in 6 key informant interviews from the group which influenced the direction of the strategic plan. The Department is leaning on the Board for their feedback and input on whether we have captured the essence of those key informants and what other additional input that the Board may have today.

Mark De Beccaro reviewed the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats (SWOT Analysis) that was conducted with the Health Department employees and from the CEAB group. Giselle Zapata-Garcia commented that she feels the analysis was very much in alignment with the conversations that this group had and there's additional things that she agreed with. Giselle said she really appreciates how everything came together. Helen reminded the group if they weren't part of the key informants to please share anything else additional they want to add. Kurtis Enick suggested that the analysis included ideas for kids and adults with special needs. There was also discussion that a lot of communities don't use social media so alternative marketing is needed. Rabi Yuguda said that for her West African community, if something isn't placed on the social media program "Whatsapp", then it's probably not going to be seen. Helen told the group that Pia Sampaga-Khim has been working on a community navigator program to respond to the input about having those conveners and bridge to navigate language and systemic barriers and having bidirectional feedback from communities about responding to what are the emerging needs of the community to help inform our activities. Mark De Beccaro summarized the presentation with the most prominent themes. The leadership took those themes and developed a first draft of what the high priority areas for the strategic plan. Each priority area will have it's on set of priority initiatives under it. The priority areas are: Healthier Lives in Snohomish County, Workforce Experience and Development, Optimal Operations, Racial and Health Equity, Financial Health and Readiness. There's still back and forth work between the staff, work groups, and external work groups. The next steps for September and October are to draft the priority areas and goals, gather input & feedback, create objectives and the "how, when, who and measures". Currently the priority areas and goals have been created and next the steps will work on strategy and objectives. Mark De Beccaro thanked everyone for taking the time for his presentation and if anyone has thoughts or ideas to please send them to Helen and she'll forward them to both him and Nicole. He also explained that this is not the only time that the group will have a chance to interact in the process. Nicole Thomsen also acknowledged that the Department and consulting group know that the Board wants to not just be reactive to, but participants in the creation of this work and appreciate their continued support and patience as the Department navigates this new process. Nicole, Mark and Helen have had a lot of conversations about how best to work with the Board on this project but being mindful of everyone's time and schedules.

Next Meeting

October 8, 2024, 12:00 - 1:30PM via Zoom