



Mayor's Task Force for Racial & Ethnic Equality

HEALTH SUBCOMMITTEE **MEETING MINUTES** **Monday, August 16, 2021** **3:00 pm** **Zoom Meeting**

Call to Order

George Soria, subcommittee co-chair, called the meeting to order at 3:19 pm. Tiffany of the City of West Palm Beach took attendance for the meeting record. Kayla Elson, of Justice and Sustainability Associates, reviewed the meeting agenda.

July Meeting Minutes

No comments were made about the July meeting minutes. The meeting minutes were unanimously approved as distributed.

Community Outreach & Health Survey Updates

Subcommittee members shared their efforts to reach out to key health stakeholders and gather feedback on their policy ideas. Naomi Ruth Cobb, subcommittee member, spoke with Trinnette Morris, owner of Trindy Gourmet, who provides healthy food and healthy cooking classes to economically disadvantaged communities. Naomi Ruth Cobb invited her to the next meeting and identified her as a potential community partner.

Kayla Elson then reviewed the additional updates to the health survey. Where there were barriers to accessing health care, the same themes of lack of trust in healthcare institutions, feelings of discrimination and lack of holistic care surfaced. George Soria reiterated the importance of getting more responses and data from the surveys.

Confirmation: Priority One Policy Ideas

The subcommittee members reviewed the policy ideas under priority one. For the first idea to invest in mobile health units, Mary Ligon, subcommittee member, expressed concern about community distrust in healthcare. She suggested working more closely with community leaders to decrease that distrust and stigma before implementing the mobile health services. George Soria emphasized that the mobile units would be a first step to a more permanent solution to providing care. The subcommittee members agreed that they would like to include language into the idea that underlines the objective of the idea to eventually promote permanent community-based care and build community trust in health care.

With respect to increasing equitable access and education about healthy, affordable food options, the subcommittee decided to include partnering with restaurants to offer healthier food options to the community. For the policy idea to increase availability and access to mental health resources, Tiffany David will find out if the city has a list of black



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and brown health professionals. It was suggested that mental health resources and referral services can be provided through the mobile health units as well.

Confirmation: Priority Two Policy Ideas

Under priority two, the subcommittee reviewed the policy ideas. For the idea to promote more equity in healthcare, George Soria suggested working with schools to recruit more minorities in medicine. The subcommittee members also discussed how confusion around health insurance coverage and financial assistance is a barrier for those trying to access healthcare. Mary Ligon, also shared that some doctors do not want to accept Medicare insurance because they don't make enough money using this kind of insurance. Therefore, George Soria suggested including an idea to institute a monitoring system to ensure that doctors and health insurance companies are properly and equitably covering the health care needs of patients.

Public Comment

There were no public comments made.

Next Steps

Kayla Elson and Milena Almetica, of Justice and Sustainability Associates, will edit the health subcommittee priority list based on the feedback from the meeting.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by George Soria at 4:40 PM. The next Health subcommittee meeting will be held on September 7th, 2021, from 5:30-7:00 PM on Zoom.

ATTENDANCE

Present:

George Soria, Subcommittee Co-Chair

Naomi Ruth Cobb, Subcommittee Member

Devin Pierce, Subcommittee Member

Mary Ligon, Subcommittee Member

Tiffany David, City of West Palm Beach Mayor's Office

Kayla Elson, Justice & Sustainability Associates

Milena Almetica, Justice & Sustainability Associates

Absent:

Gopal Rajegowda, Subcommittee Co-Chair

Jerry Deng, Subcommittee Member

Jennifer Jean Bell, Subcommittee Member