



CARES Act Task Force Health Equity Committee Orientation Meeting
Meeting Minutes – Monday, June 29, 2020
3:00 p.m. Virtual Zoom Webinar

Attendance:

Committee Members Present: Co-Chair CAO Vanessa S. Phillips, Co-Chair Alicia Clark, Jordan M. Hines, Maria Scorsone, Sandra Smithers, Dr. Cydney Teal, Julissa Coriano, Reverend Shanika Perry, Mbwidiffu Dibal, Dr. Eunice B. Gwanmesia, Marc Clymer, Jacqueline Ortiz, and Gwen Angalet.

Committee Members Absent: Dr. Shauna McIntosh, Delsy Morales, LaCedes Todd, Taylor Burge, Dr. Robert Hall, Dr. Rose Kakoza

Others in Attendance: Assistant County Attorney Randolph Vesprey and County Auditor Bob Wasserbach

Proceedings:

- Meeting called to order at 3:03 p.m. by Co-Chair CAO Phillips.
- Roll call of Committee members.
- Call for Motion by Ms. Phillips for approval of minutes from the June 18, 2020 orientation meeting. One correction requested to the minutes of the addition of Gwen Angalet to the members present. Correction noted and motion to approve minutes passed.
- Co-Chair Clark requested two new members who were present, Marc Clymer and Jacqueline Ortiz, introduce themselves to the committee.
- Introduction by Co-Chair Clark of Jacqueline Ortiz and Dr. Cydney Teal from ChristianaCare for the COVID-19 Community Support presentation and impact on specific communities discussion.
- Discussion of specific goals and strategies regarding testing in certain demographics and the specific objectives the county would like to achieve.
- ChristianaCare shared highlights of their testing efforts with the community and their patient population.
- Sandra Smithers raised concerns regarding the Rt. 9 corridor and the African-American population in that area. She highlighted the need for data on a census tract level.

- Co-Chair CAO Phillips shared details of the efforts and the following data results from New Castle County Government's testing as of June 26, 2020:
 - Caucasian: 8,143 tested. 98 positive. 1.2%
 - African American: 3,241 tested, 91 positive. 2.8%
 - Hispanic: 1,256 tested, 120 positive. 9.6%
- Discussion from committee members regarding health equity and health disparity regarding testing and other issues that affect certain demographics in the county.
- Dr. Eunice Gwanmesia shared information regarding underlying health conditions and social determinants impacting the infectious rate of COVID-19 in the African-American community, including obesity, diabetes, and hypertension:
 - Obesity rate for African-Americans in Delaware is 33.5%
 - African-Americans rate 66% higher than Caucasians in Delaware for Diabetes
 - African-Americans rate 49% higher than Caucasians in Delaware for Hypertension
 - Delaware ranks 17th in the country for Cancer
- There was a request for Paul Silverman to present at our next meeting.
- Jacqueline Ortiz offered to present on language access issues at our next meeting.
- Co-Chair Clark asked the committee to give thought of specific objectives, goals and deliverables for discussion at the upcoming meeting, and Co-Chair CAO Phillips opened the floor for other discussion.

Public Comment:

- None

Adjournment:

- Co-Chair CAO Phillips adjourned the meeting at 4:06 pm.

Minutes submitted by Maria Scorsone