

PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES

PANDEMIC RESURGENCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE – EQUITY SUBCOMMITTEE

Tuesday, July 28, 2020 – 4:00 PM

Pursuant to the Governor's State of Emergency,
this meeting was conducted solely by videoconference.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Eugene Young, Chair, President, Metropolitan Urban League of Wilmington
Anas Ben Addi, Director, DE State Housing Authority
James Collins, CIO, Department of Technology and Information
Rep. Sherry Dorsey Walker, State Representative
Van Hampton, CEO, True Access Capital
Dr. LeRoi Hicks, CMO, Wilmington Hospital
Jane Hovington; NAACP State Conference Executive Member
Sen. Elizabeth Lockman, State Senator
Lolita Lopez, CEO, Westside Family Healthcare
Rev. Rita Paige, Pastor, New Beginnings Community AME Church
Rosa Rivera, COO, La Red Health Center
Dr. Josh Thomas, CEO/Executive Director, NAMI Delaware
Freeman Williams, NAACP State Conference Executive Member
Rep. Lyndon Yearick, State Representative

STAFF PRESENT

Shavonne White, Director, Office of Supplier Diversity
Sydney Garlick, Behavioral Health Coordinator, Office of the Lt. Governor

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Eugene Young called the meeting to order at 4:05 PM.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

No unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS

Chair Remarks

Mr. Young began by thanking everyone for their attendance and reviewing a few housekeeping items.

Discuss Joint Accountability Model for COVID Response

Mr. Young reviewed the joint accountability model which outlines how coordination of the State, healthcare organizations, community organizations, the general population and the business community can play a part in avoiding a second shutdown in case of a resurgence.

Committee reflections on impacts and challenges for recommendation implementation

The committee members were asked to identify three recommendations they believe will have the greatest impact. For the health equity recommendations, the following were identified by most of the members: access to PPE for residents in congregate living situations; increase access to wireless broadband for low-income residents; increase access to care for Black, Latino and medically vulnerable populations and increase data among key demographics relating to testing. Regarding economic equity, the recommendations most identified were, supporting community based organizations and non-profits, expand incentives to increase access to capital and credit to minority-owned and women-owned businesses, support grants for COVID related expenses and entrepreneurship with targeted outreach to MBE's and subsidize supportive services for both existing workforce and unemployed.

The committee members were asked to identify three recommendation they believe will be the most challenging to implement. For the health recommendations, increase employer accountability in providing safe working environments and support for medical leave, increase home access to wireless broadband with infrastructural investment and support for low-income residents to enable access, education, and telemedicine; and develop a proactive plan and guidelines for allocation of healthcare resources in the event of a shortage, were most identified. The economic equity recommendation that was recognized the most was, providing necessary supports for schools, students, and families to navigate flexibly through multiple possible scenarios, ensuring safety and continuous access to education and childcare.

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENT

Sen. Elizabeth Lockman advised that any recommendation that will require resources will be challenging to implement.

Rep. Sherry Dorsey Walker expressed concern about making recommendations without assurance that they will be implemented.

Van Hampton asked if there is a commitment by the Governor to act on the recommendations and suggested that maybe this should be an additional recommendation.

Mr. Young advised there are talks of an advisory committee for implementation.

Dr. LeRoi Hicks suggested that there be an equity/diversity committee for the advisory committee to ensure diverse opinions.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

NEXT STEPS AND UPCOMING MEETINGS

Mr. Young reviewed the structure of the interim report and noted the release scheduled for July 31 at 1:45 PM. He also reviewed the timeline and next steps leading to the final report. The public will have the opportunity to comment on the report and ask questions. The next meeting will be to discuss public feedback. Mr. Young will notify the committee of the next meeting.

REVIEW OF MINUTES

Sen. Lockman moved seconded by CIO James Collins to approve the July 21, 2020 minutes. By unanimous vote, the motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 5:00 PM.