



**CARES Act Task Force Health Equity Committee Meeting**  
**Meeting Minutes – Monday, July 6, 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, Dr. Cydney Teal, Julissa Coriano, Reverend Shanika Perry, Dr. Eunice B. Gwanmesia, Marc Clymer, Jacqueline Ortiz, Gwen Angalet, Dr. Rose Kakoza, Delsy Morales, Dr. Robert Hall, Taylor Burge

**Committee Members Absent:** Dr. Shauna McIntosh, LaCedes Todd, Sandra Smithers, Mbwidiffu Dibal

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

**Proceedings:**

- Meeting called to order at 3:02 p.m. by Co-Chair CAO Phillips.
- Roll call of Committee members. Co-Chair CAO Phillips requested two new members who were present, Dr. Hall and Dr. Kakoza, introduce themselves to the committee.
- Call for Motion by Ms. Phillips for approval of minutes from the June 29, 2020 meeting. One correction requested to the minutes by Julissa Coriano regarding shared concerns with Sandra Smithers about the Route 9 corridor and the Spanish speaking community. Correction noted and motion to approve minutes passed.
- Discussion regarding language access led by committee member Jacqueline Ortiz who emphasized that access to qualified language interpreters skilled in medical terminology provides a complete, accurate and safe communication between the provider and the community member/patient.
- Discussion of how the County can help those who have been uniquely harmed and most impacted by COVID-19. CAO Phillips opened conversation regarding CARES Act funding for those with underlying conditions that was discussed in last week's meeting. Dr. Hall discussed the growing elderly population in New Castle County and their susceptibility and fear of COVID-19. Marc Clymer discussed identifying what is the biggest need of the NCC residents going forward and mentioned perhaps it's education and partnership with community organizations for testing and PPE, etc. Ms. Phillips also raised the question of concern for support for families who are required to quarantine due to positive test results.

- Additionally, Ms. Phillips mentioned that of over the 23K residents in NCC that have been tested, not all demographics of concern are being reached perhaps due to language barriers and lack of information/education. It was recommended that outreach to non-English speaking populations for information and testing results via Audiotape messages and WhatsApp as opposed to email as it's not widely utilized by certain segments of the population. There was a suggestion to articulate specifically the type of test being provided (self-administered nasal/mouth swab) as many believe it is the nasal swab that is uncomfortable placed high into the nasal canal. A question was raised if children are being tested, and Ms. Phillips confirmed that children are being tested as well. Committee members mentioned that the higher positive COVID rates from the Latino community may be due to the work situations of migrant/service industry employees. A suggestion was raised to provide later testing times into the evening to accommodate those with jobs that they cannot leave during the day. Jacqueline Ortiz mentioned that informational kiosks within the community would be helpful for those who do not want to communicate with someone face to face if they are concerned about their immigration status.
- Discussion of specific objectives, goals and deliverables at the end of this process. Taylor and other members discussed the lack of knowledge regarding resources and support that exists and how to reach these underserved communities and how to connect folks to appropriate education and existing resources and referral sources like 211. CAO Phillips mentioned that the meeting discussion supports that community partners will benefit from CARES Act Funding. There was discussion amongst committee members of where those in the community go for health care without insurance coverage, the importance of telemedicine during these times, and the difficulties surrounding the homeless population with testing/quarantining. CAO Phillips mentioned that the NCC Cares Act Task Force Committee for the Most Vulnerable is addressing the needs of the homeless community as well as those suffering with mental health challenges and addiction.

**Public Comment:**

- None

**Adjournment:**

- Co-Chair CAO Phillips adjourned the meeting at 4:05 pm.

Minutes submitted by Maria Scorsone