



CARES Act Task Force Health Equity Committee Meeting
Meeting Minutes – Monday, July 13, 2020
3:00 p.m. Virtual Zoom Webinar

Attendance:

Committee Members Present: Co-Chair CAO Vanessa S. Phillips, Co-Chair Alicia Clark, Maria Scorsone, Julissa Coriano, Sandra Smithers, Reverend Shanika Perry, Jacqueline Ortiz, Gwen Angalet, Delsy Morales, Dr. Robert Hall, LaCedes Todd, Jordan M. Hines, Dr. Cydney Teal

Committee Members Absent: Dr. Shauna McIntosh, Mbwidiffu Dibal, Dr. Eunice B. Gwanmesia, Taylor Burge, Marc Clymer, Dr. Rose Kakoza

Others in Attendance: County Executive Matt Meyer, County Attorney Randy Vesprey, Dr. Maria Papas, Dr. Scott Siegel, Kate DuPont Phillips, Stuart Comstock-Gay

Proceedings:

- Meeting called to order at 3:02 p.m. by Co-Chair CAO Phillips.
- Roll call of Committee members by Co-Chair CAO Phillips
- Call for Motion by Ms. Phillips for approval of minutes from the July 6, 2020 meeting. Motion to approve minutes as submitted passed.
- An overview of New Castle County COVID-19 Testing results was communicated by Ms. Phillips. The overall result numbers were broken down into numbers of positive, negative and indeterminant cases, as well as based on race and ethnicity
- Dr. Papas from ChristianaCare's Value Institute provided a presentation of mapping techniques to address race/ethnic disparities using a data driven approach to ensure testing sites are available to the at-risk populations. Dr. Siegel discussed the mapping techniques as related to the related testing sites at Route 9 corridor and Seeds of Greatness Church. Question was raised regarding the test administering process, and County Executive Meyer explained the background and how NCC provides process oversight and partners with Curative. Additionally, CE Meyer answered the question of testing goal should be at about 100K per month in the state and they are working with Dr. Papas to identify the most high-risk areas to ensure proper testing.

Dr. Siegal addressed the question of the existing gap being that citizens from low risk areas are using a disproportionate amount of testing resources, and the need exists for helpful health communication strategies and “boots to the ground” outreach for effective communication. Additionally, the need exists for not only education in the high-risk population, but containment for those that are COVID-19 positive.

- Ms. Phillips presented a summary of social determinants that are having an impact on the infectious rate of COVID-19 such as low economic status populations, those that are unemployed and reliant on public services and transportation, and those with limited access to resources such as computers, smart phones and internet
- Ms. Phillips introduced Healthy Communities Delaware that joined the meeting for a presentation of mitigating the effects of COVID specifically in high risk communities and the recommendations for an equitable response and hiring/training community health care workers in vulnerable areas. Ms. Phillips mentioned that there is an RFP process followed by the County should other organizations request to offer services, and she thanked the presenters for the information provided.
- Ms. Phillips called for a motion to table agenda item #6 of the discussion regarding language access led by committee member Jacqueline Ortiz, and motion approved and so moved
- Ms. Phillips discussed that during the July 20th meeting, we will be drilling down on recommendations by the committee to the County Executive on three approaches. We will prioritize the top three recommendations for presentation to CE Meyer by July 31st.
- Presentation by County Attorney Randy Vesprey to again review FOIA best practices to be followed by the committee members with an emphasis on setting up and using the NCC email set up for each member for all committee communications.
- During open discussion, Ms. Phillips again mentioned meeting on the 20th and 27th. Also, a question was asked regarding committee information on the NCC website, and information was provided for the committee to use the NCC sharesite as it is the repository for all committee documents

Public Comment:

- None

Adjournment:

- Co-Chair CAO Phillips adjourned the meeting at 4:02 pm.

Minutes submitted by Maria Scorsone