



CARES Act Task Force Health Equity Committee Meeting
Meeting Minutes – Monday, July 20, 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, Dr. Eunice B. Gwanmesia, Taylor Burge, Marc Clymer, Dr. Rose Kakoza

Committee Members Absent: Dr. Shauna McIntosh, Mbwidiffu Dibal

Others in Attendance: County Attorney Randy Vesprey, Dr. Paul Silverman, Bob Wasserbach

Proceedings:

- Meeting called to order at 3:04 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 13, 2020 meeting. Motion to approve minutes as submitted passed.
- An overview of language access was led by committee member Jacqueline Ortiz. She provided information that includes the recommended approach to language access be limited to qualified, professional language interpreters highly proficient in not only effectively translating but understanding the culture of those they are interpreting information. Jaki mentioned using "ad hoc" interpreters is problematic as they are not only prone to errors in medical translations creating subsequent errors in treatment, but it also can create violations of privacy. Factors to consider when communicating with non-English speaking citizens include health literacy, mode of communication and ethnic background during each stage of the testing process, from pre-test to follow up after the results are received.
- Presentation given by Dr. Paul Silverman on the My Healthy Community initiative, New Castle County specific data, and the consideration of priority ranking of census tracts. Dr. Silverman reviewed the navigation of the NCC Dashboard that show graphs of COVID-19 case specifics by date, as well as a map indicating the rate of cases per population and other metrics relating COVID

information. COVID Case information is broken down to include information such as race, ethnicity, age, county, number of tests performed and other demographic specific numbers. Dr. Silverman explained the data download Excel spreadsheet that is available to develop the charts and graphs that you may want when extrapolating data. He presented and explained a graph of case data per week for New Castle County/State of Delaware to share with the committee. Dr. Silverman discussed a chart of testing numbers broken down by race/ethnicity and noted the differences in the positive case rate based on race/ethnicity. Questions were raised regarding the “unknown” category on this chart, and Dr. Silverman explained the reasoning for the unknown category and what the next steps are to remedy the expansion of this information into the correct race/ethnicity. Dr. Silverman presented census tracts by risk with the rating logic variables categorizing each tract into a high, medium and low risk category. Due to HIPPA, the specific census tract info was suppressed and presented in a de-identified manner using real data. A question was raised and discussion proceeded regarding identifying “hot spots” for testing.

- CAO Phillips asked the committee if anyone had anything to share regarding proposal ideas for the County Executive. Feedback was received that folks will email their recommendations and those would be discussed in the collective once the information was gathered.
- During open discussion, County Attorney Randy Vesprey mentioned a reminder to the committee of setting up their New Castle County emails.

Public Comment:

- None

Adjournment:

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

Minutes submitted by Maria Scorsone