

OCCC Meeting Minutes

July 1, 2020

Via Zoom

In Attendance:

Allen, Barbara; Bartko, Robin; Cohn, Eric; Collins, Theresa; Dant, Katie; Donovan, Mark; Elder, Joanie; Harbinson, Beth; Hoff, Roger; Hughes, Sean; Johnson, Cindy; Kavanagh, Jack; Matthews, Jack; Mathews, Mimi; Nix, Debbie; Park, Ana; Powell, Teron; Rodgers-Bonaccorsy, Roe; Torres, Laura; Webb Scornaienchi, Joan; Wood, Liesele; Bentley, Shereen; Bryce, Corey

Barbara Allen called the meeting to order at 5:20.

Mark Donovan moved that the June 3, 2020 minutes be approved, and Laura Torres seconded. Approved.

Announcements

Beth announced the Riding Over Addiction and suggested that to learn more, people visit www.facebook.com/groups/RidingOverAddiction.

Robin announced that a survey on screen use had been conducted.

Roe announced

- Telehealth Survey from a variety of organizations including MABHA MDH, BHA; some big finds included a reduction in no show rates, increase in those in treatment due to telehealth options.
- Upcoming webinar on Difficult Conversations on race relations.
- Roe will send out video clips to the council for feedback and mentioned the ideas of Zoom screenings with groups of friends for feedback as well. Campaigns include Fentanyl Awareness, Peer Support and Mental Health Awareness.

Liesele sent out updated final draft of Fentanyl awareness campaign for review. Shows a grain of salt as dose for fatality. Second version is more geared to a general audience. She will share with us and discuss ways to push this information out.

- Peer Hotline – early stage and she will send to us for review and input
- Detera Bag – Food Pantry over 800 out, Neighbor Ride, over 2400 distributed in the last few weeks

In conversation with Carl DeLorenzo, Barbara announced the property for the treatment program has been finalized; the contract is moving forward. The facility is in a commercial area, so NIMBY concerns are minimized. They anticipate opening late summer or early fall 2021.

Carl D also confirmed that funding (\$9,700) for the OCCC is secure despite budget shifts due to COVID. He was supportive of our extension so the Executive Order will be extended. Old one ended March 2020 so Carl is checking w legal to see if they need to do anything related to this lapse.

Flora Betro is taking a leave of absence from the OCCC but will come back to help us as it relates to the business community.

Social/Racial Equity

“Not the strength of the body that counts but the strength of the spirit.” JR Tolkien

Barbara mentioned this quote’s relevance in light of COVID and issues of racial inequality. She referenced Teron’s write up about racial equity sent to the OCCC, She shared a link to the Horizon Foundation assessment of health equity in the county, a study done in conjunction with the HC Health Department.

The article “Moral Determinants of Health” was also sent to us from Barbara.

Teron Powell shared that at our last meeting, we discussed what was going on in our communities in the aftermath of George Floyd’s death. Since then, he has wanted to discuss this in a larger context especially as it related to the work of the OCCC.

What drives Teron to work on the OCCC is to see what impact we can have around racial disparity as it relates to the problem of high incarceration rates of African Americans and acknowledge the past. Unless we consider the past, we cannot understand the present or future. In HoCo, many people do not even believe there is a problem. We need to continue to have a conversation around strategy so we can shape the future.

The OCCC committees have a diverse representation from different institutions. We need high level strategic report in many areas related to treatment and how it is delivered to specific populations.

Even though we are majority white, we are a diverse county and we need to acknowledge disparities that exist for people of color and our Asian American communities. We need to have these conversations so that change can occur.

Barbara sent out the Annie E Casey report that talks about Race Equity and what organizations and communities can do to begin to address the issue.

Robin commented that her daughter moved to Nashville and is shocked by the culture of racism that she perceives there.

Barbara talked about the Casey Foundation’s focus on these kinds of issues. Annie E Casey – link to their equity and inclusion work - <https://www.aecf.org/work/equity-and-inclusion/>

Chris Wilson “The Master Plan” was a book recommended by Sean H..

Beth mentioned we need to educate ourselves and suggested this reading list – <https://www.businessinsider.com/books-white-privilege-novels-racism-antiracism-black-scholars-2020-6#code-of-the-street-by-elijah-anderson-14>

Mark mentioned that people of color in the county do not get help at the same rate as their white counterparts. Mark asked why and what we could do about it.

Barbara said our reach might be limited but the Horizon report gives us some places to start. She suggested that we consider these principles (from Casey) and have each committee consider these questions and issues as it relates to their work.

Barbara and Teron both said that we all only have our own experiences and that we need to look for resources to guide us on these issues.

Joanie asked us to look at what are the barriers to getting more diversity help with issues like Mental Health and SUD. She referenced the Treatment & Recovery committee looking to explore these issues. Barbara asked Ana about the Asian American community. There is hesitancy in that community to ask for help. She asked if this might apply to other minority populations. Ana stated that her culture is shy to admit fault so reaching out for help it is hard. Caregivers need to be patient so people can open up more.

Laura mentioned that we should look to the HD and Hospital to see what they are already doing related to this issue and that this information should be shared with this group.

Barbara suggested that this was important so that we don't "reinvent" the wheel.

There was consensus that we have these conversations about access and equity at the committee level specifically voiced by Mark and Mimi.

Joanie asked what Joan's experience was with HCDF and the issue of racial equity. She said that it varies from year to year and that often it does not reflect who they serve.

Barbara asked Eric how this dialog shows up in the work he does. He said that they do not often have these conversations at the Fire Department, and he appreciates having them here.

Debbie asked the BOD of Harpers Choice who is planning on making a statement. One of their hashtags relates to talking about diversity. Instead of just making a statement, they decided to drill down deeper and explore what they could do about the issue of diversity through a deeper conversation. Sometimes silence does not mean acceptance. It can mean people are looking further. She thanked Teron for his writing and expressed that it helped her understand the issues much better as they relate to our community.

This is about building consensus and coalition around certain issues because there will be many steps towards solution and that some things sound good on paper but how will they be executed. What is the practical implication of our statements? How will people on the receiving end feel about our actions?

Challenging institutions is important. Giving an issue lip service is different than taking concrete actions. Are the ideas transformative? Will not happen overnight but collectively we are opening our eyes. Next step is taking action.

Barbara asked COEX office to extend the OCCC to 2023 so that we have time to make changes. Cindy has offered to help Barbara with the next version of the Executive Order. Sean H. has also been involved in revisions.

Barbara acknowledged consensus to move ahead with actionable ideas related to this issue within the committees. She would like the committees to be ready to report out on this next month.

Barbara will draft language related to this issue and include in a report out for the August meeting.

Joanie was asked to present a report from the Treatment and Recovery Committee and since it was late, she offered to send it out to the OCCC instead of verbally presenting.

Joanie suggested the podcast and book *White Fragility* and she will forward the link to us.

Barbara talked about a book called *Deacon King Kong* that describes (as a reader) to walk into a community and share the main character's experience. Asked people to continue to send recommendations.

Beth suggested that we assign people to summarize salient info the committee needed and present short summaries.

Laura – will filter through materials and choose one

Beth will do *Faces and Voices of Recovery* and *Annie E Casey* review.

Barbara thanked the group and adjourned the meeting at 6:45 pm

Respectfully submitted, Beth Harbinson

APPROVED