

Governor's COVID-19 Equity Response Tea
July 2, 2020
Remote Zoom Meeting
MINUTES

Meeting Open at 5:01 p.m.

Members Present (roll-call with disclosure of who else in room): Kirsten Durzy, Bobbie Bagley, Rogers Johnson, Dottie Morris, Trinidad Tellez. All unaccompanied.

Quorum: Yes

Others Present: 1 public attendee.

Welcome, Call to Order, Structure of Remote Meeting

- Review of Right to Know Procedures for compliance with the requirements of RSA chapter 91-A and Emergency Order 12.
 - Members of the public can view and listen to the public meeting via online webinar or via phone. Members of the public will be muted throughout the meeting. Comments will be taken at the end.
 - All votes taken during the meeting shall be done by roll call vote
- Charge is to develop a recommended strategy to address the disproportionate impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and to oversee the implementation of the recommended plan.

Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes

- Minutes from 6/27/2020 meeting approved after roll call vote with a vote of 4 for accepting the minutes. B.Bagley abstained from voting as unable to read.
- Minutes from 6/29/2020 subcommittee meeting approved after roll call vote with a vote of 4 for accepting the minutes. B.Bagley abstained from voting as unable to read.
- Approved minutes will be posted on the GCERT website.

Updates on scan/review of publically available data sources/briefs

- Review and extensive discussion of draft excel worksheet – scan/review identifying what can any person find related to disparities or social determinants of health.
- Discussion of concerns that quick scan may not be doing a fair assessment, need a deeper dig. Agree can provide a quick summary from the initial pass, and further exploration is needed.

5:18 Bobbie Bagley departure

- Discussion about domains where there is lack of data, despite anecdotal information. Can look at federal data or what happens in Massachusetts.
- Discussion that in NH data may be collected but not released, maybe collected and bad quality, maybe don't collect.
- Mention of a dashboard from MN as a good example.

Updates on strategic plan report writing progress

- Review and extensive discussion of draft outline document.
- Discussion of balance between being concise and providing background information for people to use as a lens to read it, including explanation of different items and terms. Agreed will write with the expectation that the reader has no background knowledge. Goal is clarity.

Public Comment

Review of written comments submitted by email before meeting

- COVID NH testing lacking from Lisa Stryker CRNA, 7/2/20.
 - ...very concerned about the latest availability of NH COVID testing. I am an anesthesia provider in a NH hospital. My hospital will NOT test any provider here unless showing COVID symptoms, regardless of our Frontline exposure to COVID patients . The CEO states he doesn't have enough tests. How will symptomatic exposure and transfer be contained if there is no testing? I called Convenient MD care in my area for a test but they says they are overwhelmed with requests and cannot get a turn around result in less than 7days...7days? That would be essentially meaningless...as exposure in the interim week could easily happen. NH needs a turn around time of 3 days or less ...What if I am positive? Think of all the exposure!
 - Will also forward to AG's office
- Comment regarding Covid-19 and medical transport not related to work of GCERT
 - will refer to AG's office
- Black, brown and New Immigrant COVID-19 Relief by Deo Mwano, 6/30/20
 - The Governor and the GOFERR group should establish a black, brown and new immigrant COVID-19 relief fund... NH CARES Act Funds to black, brown and new immigrant businesses that (a) did not apply for the Mainstreet Fund because of lack of awareness; (b) are struggling and need help now; (c) need to see that our state believes in them and wants them to succeed. This would give them hope.
 - Specifically, request that GOFERR allocate \$1,500,000 in CARES Act funds to:
 - Black, brown and new immigrant businesses
 - Learning programs serving ELL students
 - On-the-ground minority non-profits providing case management
 - Creation of an interactive hub with videos and real time connections to resources that support the people in our community.
 - Access to chamber [of commerce] memberships, which are out of reach for most of these businesses so they can have access to timely information and resources.
 - \$1,000,000 for black, brown and new immigrants administered
 - \$250,000 to strengthen and expand learning support for English Language Learners in our state who have received more incompletes than our mainstream students. Help students to better adapt to remote learning by providing the right technology and expand internet coverage in certain neighborhoods.
 - \$250,000 to support organizations and individuals supporting black, brown and new immigrant communities with case management, translation services, transportation,

providing food, helping individuals to complete forms, and educating community residents how to properly manage their health.

- ...nonprofit organizations had the opportunity to apply for CARES Act funds in recent weeks. Community liaisons have stronger relationships and influence with these communities than some of the non-profits who usually get the resources to support them. This is an opportunity to come alongside and support people in our community who might otherwise be left behind.

Comment made by member of public in attendance

- Jennifer Smith (public attendee). Looking for Governor to understand the importance of addressing the risk of COVID being introduced into incarceration settings (prisons, jails) where there is disproportionate involvement of people of color in the justice system. There has been commutation done by other Governors.

Return to review of written comments submitted by email before meeting

- Help NH Parents from Bruce McColl and Rane Hall, 7/2/20
 - Writing to ask that Governor issue a mask mandate for New Hampshire. As the parent of teenagers living in Manchester, want to convey the confusion our young people experience both as New Hampshire residents and as essential workers (at businesses like Market Basket where young people find summer work as baggers)...our national and local climate of mixed messaging around masks and their role in mitigating the pandemic is giving rise not only to more illness and death, but also to a sense of cynicism in our youth and to a feeling of desperation and despondence among our most vulnerable populations? when we tell essential workers (many of whom are teens, low income workers, and /or racialized minorities) that they have no choice but to wear masks at work, but that this rule is not a mandate for customers, we downgrade these workers' status from 'essential' to 'disposable.' People feel this. They know it. And it is contributing not only to the global health crisis, but also to the degradation of our civic identities. My teens increasingly perceive our country's mandatory/arbitrary outlook on COVID 19 with a shoulder shrug. Why should they continue to care when others don't? If we cannot enforce a no mask/no entry policy in our public spaces and businesses, we lose an opportunity to value and protect vulnerable workers; we abdicate an opportunity to school our youth in the virtues of responsibility and sacrifice for the common good... asking us to wear masks is a small thing and that it's the right thing to do. I think it's too important to leave to chance and to individual choice. Once you [Governor] establish this simple rule for Granite Staters, we can better enforce it in our own families and spheres of influence. As the parent of teens, I can tell you I would welcome a mask mandate...with relief.

6:09 – Rogers Johnson departure

Additional discussion of potential report elements/topics

- Discussion of elements from public comments received for inclusion in report.
 - Need for testing to be available/accessible and results timely – 3 days or less
 - Lack of awareness about CARES Act funding opportunities/resources (Main Street and Non-Profit Emergency Relief)

- Risk of COVID for incarcerated people of color
 - Need for universal use of masks
- Discussion of how people are sharing examples of either feeling frustrated, like they don't have the right information they need, or feel they're exposing what they believe to be a serious flaw in the response system. We're just collecting stories of people's frustrations and concerns. Gives us an opportunity to elevate it. Our job is to identify where the gaps might be that are leading to significant disparities or danger for some people in our state.
- Discussion about considering the recommendations that have come out of the COVID-19 Equity Task Force
- Discussion about Non-Profit Emergency Relief Fund; application period closed June 25

Plan next steps

- Review timeline for report writing. Plan to send written sections to chair on Saturday at noon, so members can receive compiled draft on Sunday for their reading/review.
- Meeting Monday 3-5pm to discuss, finalize and approve.
- Tentatively schedule meeting Tuesday 6-7:30 pm in case needed for further discussion, agreement, finalization and approval.

Meeting Adjourned: 6:38pm