

**BHEC Steering Committee Meeting  
Meeting Minutes  
April 8, 2021**

**Facilitated by:** Bijan Amirshahi, Ethnic Services Manager

**In Attendance:** Nguyen, Kelvin; McCleese, Belinda; Thornton, April; Banicki, Wendy; Rao, Bhuvana; Soto Welty, Iliana; Helmy, Deana; Arnot, Michael; Whetsell, Brittany; Ngo, Hannah; Wright, Ernesta; Eftekhazadeh, Sohail; Sayyedi, Maryam; Tran, Duan; Thornton, April; Renteria, Teresa

**I. Welcome and Introductions –**

- Bijan opened the meeting and welcomed member. He provided an overview of the governing structure and the community co-chair election process.

**II. Electing Community Co-Chair**

- Members consisted of community members and county staff. The County members were invited to move to a breakout room while community members vote.
- Five of the community members opted out and only two members wished to stay in the running for the Community Co-Chair position.
- Majority of the members voted to elect Iliana Soto Welty as the new Community Co-Chair of BHEC.
- Michael Arnot expressed his appreciation for the way the Community Co-Chair election processed was handled.
- Iliana Soto Welty thanked members for their votes and promised to represent everyone.

**III. Draft Goal Statement**

1. Bijan presented a draft of the goal statement as suggested by Ernesta Wright and other members during the meeting last month.
2. Goal statement was shared on screen for members to view for editing and discussion.
3. Bhuvana Rao stated she felt that the draft was well done, and suggested expanding statement about community partners to include community at large.
4. Michael Arnot suggested that more time would be needed to review and edit the statement.
5. Iliana Soto Welty stated that she'll provide feedback after further reviewing. She stated that we are working together as a community but that we would like to be working in alignment with other agencies.
6. Belinda McCleese made the suggestion that in regards to the DHH community, we would want to make sure to capitalize the respective letters.
7. April Thornton suggested to change the part regarding systemic racism and possibly broaden the term to make sure that all groups are included, possibly adding discrimination.
8. Iliana Soto Welty suggested to change the sentence on systemic racism to clearly state that our unwavering position is that racism is a public health crisis.

9. Wendy also suggested to take out the word believe from the public health crisis line as well.
10. Teresa shared that County will be applying for a grant for Health literacy, and that the data mapped for this grant could be useful in our efforts as well.

#### **IV. Workgroups**

- Community Relations & Education: Michael Arnot stated that in their meeting they spoke a lot about community involvement, making it meaningful and improve our relationship with the community. Ernesta Wright also shared that this was a very active and robust group and very community focused.
- Outreach and Engagement to Black/African Americans: Ernesta Wright reported that the group's first meeting will be held on April 19<sup>th</sup> first group.
- LGBTIQ: Bhuvana Rao reported that in the group's first meeting four people participated. She said that it was a very inclusive and robust group, and that they worked on identifying where the gaps in the community are, and the existing resources. She also spoke about possibility of expanding an existing gender affirming training.
- Spirituality: Deana Helmy reported that the group looked at ways to conduct outreach and to expand membership. She also stated that the group discussed possibility of holding a townhall meeting where spirituality and its possible effects on recovery can be discussed.
- Populations with Language Assistance and other Communication Needs: Kelvin Nguyen spoke about the importance of linguistic competence and the available translation capacity. He also spoke about breakout room sessions with various languages. Kelvin asked Bijan about available language services. Bijan described available services.
- Michael Arnot asked if someone can help to make some changes on the web page. Teresa Renteria shared that the website has changed vendors, but if there are any changes he would like to make to email Brittany and the changes can be sent to the content editors.

#### **V. Meeting Minutes**

- Bijan asked if the committee has any comments on how the meeting minutes be prepared or presented considering that the meetings are also recorded on zoom.
- Michael Arnot stated that it is still necessary to have the minutes presented to the committee for review and approval. The members agreed.
- Meeting minutes were shared on the screen for review.
- Meeting minutes approved by Teresa Renteria and seconded by Ernesta Wright.

#### **VI. BHEC Committee**

- Bijan stated that the full BHEC committee last met in January. He mentioned that according to the governing structure the full BHEC committee meets 3-4 times per year. He asked the SC members when he feels the right should be held.
- Teresa Renteria stated that the bylaws, the rules of engagement and the goals should be finalized before holding the full BHEC meeting again.
- Iliana Soto Welty also agreed that community guidelines are needed to set the stage. She said that it would be good to have a mapping of how the committee interacts with BHS, BH Advisory board, MH Steering Committee, etc. She also asked that the future meeting dates be e-mail to the membership.
- Michael Arnot said that he can work on the bylaws with others before the next meeting. Bijan will send a few bylaws samples to Michael Arnot.
- Members felt that there is still work to do before inviting the full BHEC to a

meeting.

- Bhuvana Rao mentioned May is Mental Health awareness month, and that the calendar of events will be shared.
- **Next meeting: Thursday, May 13<sup>th</sup>. 1:00pm – 3:00pm**