

BHEC Steering Committee Meeting

Meeting Minutes

October 21, 2021

Facilitated by: Iliana Soto- Welty, Community Co-Chair

In Attendance: Banicki, Wendy; McCleese, Belinda; Whetsell, Brittany; Arnot; Michael; Renteria, Teresa, Tran, Duan; Thornton, April; Eftekharzadeh, Sohail

I. Welcome and Icebreaker

- Community Co Chair Iliana Welty opened the meeting.
- Icebreaker: What can county do to stop/ help racism?
- Duan Tran shared that he feels everyone needs to have their own statement towards anti racism, as it is important for us to express our own individual commitments.
- April Thornton expressed the importance of creating a safe space and that is important for people to speak out.
- Wendy expressed appreciation for hearing from others as she is afraid of offending other cultures.
- Michael expressed the need for change in power structures on Orange County.

II. Business

- Bylaws reviewed and changes made were shared by Teresa Renteria.
- Discussion opened regarding changes to the Bylaws, changes on verbiage and community representation in the steering committee was discussed.
- Bylaws were approved with changes.
- Cultural Competency Plan Update progress and a thorough outline was shared by Teresa.

III. Homelessness Discussion

- Sohail led discussion regarding seeking assistance for homeless populations.
- Teresa shared 211, and CityNet are good resources as well as emergency shelters that can be reached by various county Housing programs.
- Iliana and Wendy also shared resources for the homeless community (ART, BeWell, OClinks)

IV. Health Equity Series

- Racism is a Public Health Crisis- Mecca Health Equity Series information shared with the committee.
- Series will include several speakers and will have two parts.

V. Workgroup Reports

- Spirituality has been discussing holding a town hall meeting in partnership with OC church groups. They have also finalized their mission statement and will present it next meeting for review.

- April Thornton shared about the Outreach to Black and African American Community. Mission Statement as also been finalized. Working on collaborating with church food basket giveaway to attend and pass out information on resources.

Other workgroups not in attendance

VI. Open Steering Committee Seats

- Iliana mentioned the forms received regarding the open seats on workgroup committees.
- Danny Gibbs is interested in taking over the Spirituality workgroup, and John Reynolds would like to join the Steering Committee. Iliana shared that both members have lived experience, which brings a deeper understanding to the committee.
- Sohail mentioned another application was submitted from a wellness center employee. The application portal will be revisited to review additional applicants.
- The steering committee approved Danny Gibbs and John Reynolds to be steering committee members for the open positions.