



## Thurston County Council on Racial Equity and Inclusion

Friday, October 21, 2022

5:00pm to 7:00pm

Via Zoom

### Meeting Minutes

#### Attendees:

Council Members	Present
Evelyn Clark	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Jason Clark	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tabissa Gainey	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Auzimuth Jackson PHD	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Keoki Kauanoe	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Juliet Lawson-Hall	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Marlon Wakefield	<input type="checkbox"/>

Public: None

County Staff: Mary Ann O'Garro

Meeting called to order at 5:04 pm

Agenda Item #1: Council Member Kauanoe read the Land Acknowledgement. Accessibility needs of the group: Council Member Kauanoe may have to leave early and no other needs of the group

Agenda Item #2: County Manager Ramiro Chavez was unable to join for the council meetings due to a conflict in his schedule. We will schedule our November meeting on a date he is available.

Agenda Item #3: Approval of the September Minutes and the Consent Agenda. Chair Lawson-Hall added a clarifying point to the minutes and her and Councilmember Gainey's roles on the council. Councilmember Lawson-Hall is the Chair of the council. Councilmember Gainey is the Co-Chair who will lead the meetings when Chair Lawson-Hall is unavailable or when they agree Co-Chair Gainey will lead the meetings, however they will not be co-facilitating each meeting together.

Councilmember Jackson moves to amend the minutes to reflect accurately the roles the Chair and Co-Chair. Councilmember Kauanoe seconded. Unanimous Approval.

Agenda Item #4: Mission Moment – Councilmember Gainey recently downloaded Barack Obama's book – Dreams of My Childhood.

Councilmember Jackson reported that ESD 113 was awarded a grant to address the absence of BIPOC educators in 5 counties. He stated, "We will be moving forward in the next two years trying to address the critical problem of the lack of BIPOC educators." Councilmember Jackson was instrumental in writing the proposal for the grant.

Councilmember Lawson-Hall shared that on Friday October 14, she attended her swearing in ceremony as a US citizen.

Councilmember E. Clark shared that she and Councilmember J. Clark developed and are presenting a national training series on behavioral health/racial equity in the juvenile justice system and how it impacts youth of color. Focusing on community for healing as opposed to systems of care, given their racist history.

Agenda Item #5: Councilmembers introduced themselves to the guest presenter, Senior Epidemiologist for PHSS, Thurston County, Mary Ann O'Garro. She introduced herself and discussed harm reduction approach to the behavioral health – oversees opioid response, syringe services program, suicide prevention, social determinants are much deeper than western medicine. Oral health – whole person health – racism and discrimination is a social determinant of health – issues of racism have increased in the past year – even more so than the uprising in 2020.

Mary Ann had a power point (attached). This council has two mandates – Proclamation from Board of Health, Resolution from Board of County Commissioners

We must share data – stories matter. We want to be Explicit that Racism is a social determinant of health. She offered to provide data that is requested by the council.

Councilmember Jackson requested that we pull data dashboards with aggregated breakdowns of populations distribution mapped by length of residency and property residency and a history of the County Tax rate over a 20-year period.

PHSS is in support of this work and want to make it possible for this group to succeed.

Questions for Mary Ann:

1. What is the most productive way to gather the data they are requesting? Answer: Data requests will go through Nicole in order to be tracked in order to tell our story.
2. Are the numbers we saw reflective of infant mortality rate – is this just captured through county or does it include private providers? Answer: It includes all infant deaths county wide. Woman are delaying care. We can see in the birth risk factors – black moms are delaying care – survey indicates terrible treatment that women are receiving. Its been rebuffed as if it's not happening. Anti- blackness in health care seems particularly strong in maternal health in Thurston county.
3. Does Thurston county capture health care information on sovereign nations or indigenous people data? Answer: Population data sets that we use does include that – however in Thurston County, it depends on which data piece we are looking at – because of the composition of the workforce we may see some differences in data.

In Thurston County, we want equitable access to health care and a workforce that is reflective of our population that is empathetic and kind.

Two of the county commissioners sit on the behavioral health boards – sometimes we can do small things sometimes big things – using all levers of power.

Council will be reaching out in the future – requested a copy of the presentation.

Agenda Item #6: Councilmembers were not able to meet to work on that charter, in addition, they requested information in order to work from examples. Nicole will send examples of other county charters and templates and then we can develop a committee on the charter so that we can be within the scope of the council. Check Lacey and Olympia to see what their charter looks like.

Councilmember Lawson-Hall asked if the County Manager could prepare a document for the vision and scope of the council if he is not able to attend in person.

Councilmember Jackson would like to know what the county will allow us to do. What types of work will require significant scrutiny and what can we CLEARLY NOT DO? What is our authority and what is not?

Agenda Item #7: In terms of branding and communications, the council is requesting one email address for the council to access – they feel very strongly about this. We do not want the public to have our personal email addresses.

Create a section on agenda – for NEW/OTHER BUSINESS

One additional item to discuss on branding and communications: Councilmembers are requesting a webpage to highlight council work and to post meeting agendas and minutes. It was explained to the council that there is a webpage dedicated to racial equity work and information about the council is posted on the page. Council members will look at the webpage and decide what they want on the page.

Councilmembers discussed recording the meetings and if it is a requirement. The council was informed that meeting notices and the agenda are posted on the website a minimum of 24 hours prior to every council meeting.

Agenda Item #8: In terms of new business, the council is asking about resources to develop a webpage and they are recommending that an intern be assigned to support developing the webpage. They also want to know if Thurston county councils have authority to edit their own pages. Is there a capacity to have council members help with the webpage? Council discussed inviting someone from the Olympia or Lacey council come to talk with them about the work they are doing and how they are running things.

Nicole will send out a doodle poll for the next meeting and the open house. No Mondays and Wednesdays.

We began discussing possible times for the open house, in addition to finalizing recommendations for the RE Action Plan and the council stated that January 31, 2022 will be more realistic for specific recommendations for an action plan. Charter will be done by December and we still need to outline our scope. Council is requesting name tags to wear when they are out in community.

Meeting adjourned at 6:50pm

Meeting meetings completed by Nicole Miller, MA, CDE ®

Thurston County Racial Program Manager

For Follow-Up:

ITEM NEEDING FOLLOW-UP	ACTION/RESOLUTION	DATE COMPLETED
Data with breakdowns by race of populations distribution mapped by length of residency and property residency	Email inquiry as to where to find this information sent 11/14/22	In progress
History of the County Tax rate over a 20-year period.	<a href="https://thurstoncountywa.gov/tax-rates">Thurston County   Treasurer's Office   Tax Rates (thurstoncountywa.gov)</a>  Is this the information you want for the past 20 years or something different?	In progress
Copy of Mary Ann O'Garro's presentation	Emailed to Council as requested	11/2/2022
Examples of Other Charters	6 examples emailed to Council	10/26/2022
County Email Address for Council	Emails sent to IT on 9/20 & 10/21/ with no answer yet	In progress
Are council meetings required to be recorded?	Email inquiry as to where to find this information sent 11/14/22	In progress
Is Intern or Councilmember support available/allowed to work on the webpage	Emailed BoCC intern about availability to work on webpage (11/14)	In progress
Doodle Poll will be sent out to schedule next meeting	There was only one date that was suggested for the November Meeting – no doodle poll needed.	NA
Can the council have name tags?	Email inquiry as to where to find this information sent 11/14/22	In progress
Schedule Open House	January 2023 in new building	In progress
Create 2023 Meeting Schedule	On December's Agenda	In progress
Charter	Estimated completion 12/31/22	In progress
RE Action Plan – final recommendations	Estimated completed 1/31/23	In progress