

Health Equity Advisory Commission
May 6, 2025
12:30-2:00 pm

Agenda

1. Updates:
 1. Office of Health Equity
 2. Retreat planning
 3. S. 2 did not make it....
2. Prioritize topic areas – who are the experts?
3. Workplan review – attaching the most recent version that I have
4. Membership and Structure for the Commission

Meeting notes

- **State Health Equity Director:** The Director has been selected and a start date is TBD. Kate J. comes to us from UVM's Prism Center and has experience working on equity and inclusion in large institutions. HEAC might want to make some suggestions to Julie A. at VDH for information/projects to cover with Kate during her initial orientation. Those could include the last 1-2 HEAC reports, Katie S.'s work plan, and general health topics the HEAC has prioritized in the past. Kirsten M. will package this request and send it to Julie A.
- **Retreat Planning:** Since our initial outreach to the potential facilitator, the HEAC has rethought whether the proposed dates (Jun 12th or Jun 26th) are still going to work for the group. The facilitator is also unavailable on those June dates, so the HEAC discussed potential dates in July, but worried there would be low attendance due to summer vacation schedules. Also, the group wondered the status of the HEAC's one-time funds from 2022. Xusana D. will check to see if it remains in the current version of the budget bill, since the Legislature had been looking for untouched carry-forward to absorb for re-allocation. The group reconsiders whether to have a retreat or just to postpone that idea for the time being and focus on establishing a relationship with the new Health Equity Director and discuss topics such as 1) supports from VDH for the HEAC, 2) goals for the HEAC, 3) engagement/re-engagement of HEAC membership, 4) what other jurisdictions are doing with Health equity, 5) role of OHE/HEAC together and apart, and 6) grant-funded work and its future status. The group agrees to move forward with this idea and defer the full HEAC retreat to September. The three dates the group selected to meet with the Director are 6/10, 7/08, 8/12. The group also is holding 9/13 for the full HEAC retreat.
- **S.2 Proposed Legislation:** The bill (S.2) that would have formally codified the establishment of the Office of Health Equity did not pass and the group was initially unsure why, but it appears the language was added into Sec. E.312.2 of the budget bill (H.493).
- **HEAC Priorities (not necessarily listed in order)**
 - Flavored tobacco & prevention equity
 - long COVID
 - Mental health equity
 - ...and additional items.