

# Health Equity Advisory Commission Meeting Notes

**Date:** August 5, 2025

**Attendees:** Mark Hughes, Monica Hutt, Justin Kenney, Sandi Yandow, Joanne Crawford, Sarah Launderville, Xusana Davis, Alex McCracken, Katie Stetler

Agenda item	Notes
Member updates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• VCIL has a new location!</li> <li>• Federation of Families for Children’s Mental Health               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ No longer receiving DMH funding. This provides some flexibility to focus on issues important to them beyond grant requirements.</li> <li>○ Focused on student athlete mental health during mental health advocacy week.</li> <li>○ Seeing increase in families seeking help for adolescent substance use.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Richard Kemp Center               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <a href="#">First African Landing Day</a> coming up on 8/23. <a href="#">Sign up</a> to attend, table, or otherwise support.</li> <li>○ 1619 traveling exhibit is open to the public from 10am-4pm Mon-Fri.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Next Capitol for a Day on 8/12 in Windham County (various locations). Keep an eye out for scheduled events.</li> </ul>
State Office of Health Equity Updates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kate Jerman starting 8/26.</li> <li>• Katie providing basic admin support until the Office of Health Equity is established/staff onboarded, at which time they will take over. For now, ensure we are in compliance with open meeting law, and delay strategic discussion of needs, support structure with the new OHE.</li> <li>• <b>Next step:</b> Kirsten will reach out to Julie to confirm HEAC outreach/orientation with Kate.</li> </ul>
HEAC Retreat Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Date: September 13 (but open to modifying to accommodate the OHE Director and facilitators)</li> <li>• Goals: Engage HEAC members and new Office of Health Equity Director</li> <li>• Agenda:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Revisit/revise work plans for HEAC subcommittees</li> <li>○ Develop strategies to encourage more member participation or adjust membership</li> <li>○ Develop/plan more community engagement</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Set parameters for interaction with the OHE</li> <li>• Facilitators: Possibly co-directors of LAOB (Jean Hamilton, Ornella Mata-Figueroa).</li> <li>• Venue: Expect about 15 people. Funding available to pay for venue and/or facilitator time.</li> <li>• <b>Next step:</b> Xusana reach out to potential facilitators from LAOB and Sarah explore venues.</li> </ul>
Revisiting trauma (racial and otherwise)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Focus on how to address trauma, how to shift what is currently happening.</li> <li>• Make understandable and visible the causes and impacts of trauma on different communities (e.g., Indigenous people, people with disabilities).</li> <li>• Need more than quantitative data. Need to hear voices of people who are impacted.</li> <li>• Purpose/use: Add findings to existing reporting, tie into activities required to do in statute, provide recommendations to legislature.</li> <li>• <b>Next step:</b> discuss in Executive Committee what next steps should be on this topic.</li> </ul>
Next steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Kirsten:</b> reach out to Julie to confirm HEAC outreach/orientation with Kate Jerman.</li> <li>• <b>Xusana:</b> reach out to LAOB co-directors for possible HEAC retreat facilitation.</li> <li>• <b>Sarah:</b> Explore HEAC retreat venues.</li> <li>• <b>Executive Committee:</b> discuss what next steps should be on the topic of exploring causes and impact of trauma.</li> </ul>