



Multnomah County Public Health Advisory Board Minutes March 2021

Date: Thursday, March 25, 2021

Time: 3:30-5:30pm

Purpose: To advise the Public Health Division on several areas of work with a strong focus on ethics in public health practice and developing long-term public health approaches to address the leading causes of death and disability in Multnomah County.

Desired Outcomes:

1. Hear updates from board members
2. Get background information on Multnomah County's Racism as a Public Health Crisis Resolution
3. Determine MCPHAB involvement with the Resolution, along with next steps
4. Realign policy priorities and determine next steps

Members Present: Suzanne Hansche, Becca Brownlee, Hanna Atenafu, Joannie Tang, Cheryl Carter, Maribel Reyes, Timur Ender, Bertha Ferran, Daniel Morris

Multnomah County Staff: Jessica Guernsey, Nathan Wickstrom, Nicole Buchanan, Adelle Adams

Item/Action	Process	Lead
Welcome, Introductions, Agenda & Minutes Review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attendees introduced themselves No agenda modifications were suggested Meeting minutes from December were approved by consensus 	Becca Brownlee, Hanna Atenafu
Public Comment & Board Sharing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete poll if interested in being Chair/Vice-Chair, or in nominating someone else <ul style="list-style-type: none"> https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd_fV_8xVGzxPTN37KgOSqtbs5I7GjUm-NC5UMmjef6EKp89w/viewform?usp=sf_link Term would begin in July We will vote on this at our April meeting 	Becca Brownlee, Hanna Atenafu
Racism as a Public Health Crisis - MCPHAB's Role in Resolution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Background: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Board of County Commissioners will be taking up the Resolution for Racism as a Public Health Crisis on April 8th Systemic racism is all encompassing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Address it will require more than just what the Public Health Division can do Jurisdictions were passing resolutions across the country, but they didn't have any meat in them; no action items were attached <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Multnomah County wanted to make sure that the resolution included tangible actions Multnomah County's approach: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What is the difference between acknowledging that racism exists and looking at it through a public health lens? Take this lens and ensure that every department in the organization is responsible for using this lens Make sure that our decisions reflect a Public Health perspective (e.g. community driven, data driven) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Take that model and make sure that the rest of the organization is engaging in the same way How do you take these values and institutionalize them? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Board of Commissioners will change, so they want to make sure that these are permanent changes Recommendations from MCPHAB: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> State violence isn't explicitly listed here <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Opportunity to add more about this in the whereas section State violence is interwoven in racism and the language should be added At no point was violence mentioned here; point 8 (detrimental impact) is rather sanitized Change the use of Americans - it's not just Americans who are impacted here Hoping to see some concrete steps for policing and criminal justice at the end Accountability mechanisms <ul style="list-style-type: none"> How can we identify ways to have accountability with the communities being served? How is power going to be shared? Mention that the work is going to be upstream Budget - what are the investments? Where is the money going to go? What are some next steps towards addressing incarceration? 13c 	All

- It's one thing to have a tool, but it's another thing to name what that decision making process looks like and how that's going to be shared
- o 13f
 - Expand this section to reference the violence perpetrated by the system and ongoing dedication to this work
- o Name what kind of decision-making power there may be or stakeholder outreach to those communities involved
 - Touched on in 3d and 4e
 - Vague in who will be making decisions; who is going to be in charge?
 - Mention that representatives from specific communities will be at the table and involved in decision making
 - a. Not feeling like we are going to be empowered
 - b. Concerned that BIPOC people won't be considered
 - This is something that the Board of Commissioners is adopting; there are limitations to what the resolution can accomplish
 - There are many different approaches within the County, and many different places where people are making decisions
 - Suggestion:
 - Create a contrast in the whereas section with where we have been and where we need to be with regards to community engagement
 - A lot of times communities aren't part of the co-creating process from the beginning and are just called in at the end for final review
- o Perhaps 4c language could be broadened beyond Climate Justice Initiative
 - 4e language can be changed and moved to A so that it's more prominent - make the language mirror C
- o Ties to Modernization of Public Health
 - Modernization is more specific to the PH Division; it's carried at multiple levels
 - Some clarity around the budgets would be helpful, but understand that budgets change from year to year
- o Add a whereas section around state violence
- o Add a section around how community engagement can be extracted
- o 8 - no mention that racism is exposure to violence
- o On one hand we are identifying racism as a public health crisis, but on the other hand we can't use race when making targeted solutions
- o Budget does offer a way to combine strategies in 3 and 4 and ask for proactive solutions
 - The County is going to aim to use investments that will uplift and help the health of the entire public
 - By making investments that don't leave people behind we're elevating the health status for everyone
 - This can be the criteria that could be added
 - Budget statement is vague
 - How do you know that you're using an equitable budget process?
 - a. Suzanne can share budget language with Nicole
 - The County added equity assessments into the budget process
 - When a department submits budgets, they are asked to assess the equity impacts
 - Chair's process uses the same tool to assess equity impacts
 - How do we incorporate changes into the business processes that are long standing - institutionalize those changes so that it doesn't matter who is in office
 - Because the budget process happens at so many different levels, this section of the resolution was left purposefully vague
- o Is there a way to set aside money for this work when creating the budget process?
- o Is there a position that is being paid to ensure that this work is being done?
- o Oftentimes work that cuts across such a large area requires FTE
 - The resolution itself doesn't affect the budget or allocate FTE
 - A resolution is really limited in what it can actually do
 - This was the first budget year that the Chair asked every department to bring their equity manager to the budget meetings
 - Internally there is the Workforce Equity Strategic Plan, which looks at structural racism within the organization
 - Office of Diversity and Equity
- o Timur volunteered as tentative to give testimony

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Joannie volunteered as tentative for testimony as well o For questions or additional feedback, you can reach out to Nicole at nicole.buchanan@multco.us • MCPHAB approved by consensus that Timur, Joannie and/or any additional MCPHAB members interested in providing testimony on the Racism as a Public Health Crisis Resolution on April 8th can do so and will represent the Board 	
MCPHAB Priority Realignment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tobacco <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Board was having hearings on flavored tobacco products o Currently on hold, but looking at data in context of COVID and racism as a public health crisis <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Working through racism as a public health crisis to ground us before moving into other policies o Companies disproportionately target communities of color o There are bills on TRL and inhalant delivery systems • All Substance use approach <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o On hold currently o Area of work where we need to have a broader conversation • Nutrition <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o MCPHAB opportunity for involvement with healthy food procurement • Housing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o No specific updates, outside of what's been coming out of the COVID work o Work has gone forward with the Joint Office o If folks have questions or ideas around housing, they can follow up with Nicole • Racism as a PH Emergency <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Had a good discussion today on this issue • COVID-19 Response and controlling communicable disease <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Continuing to put forward social determinants of health approach to make sure people can stay safe <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Paying for housing, utilities, etc. ▪ Vaccination efforts well under way o BIPOC plan - focusing on the data and those most impacted o The federal administration change has made a large difference <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ We're receiving funding to address this long term ▪ Looks like it will go through 2024 and can be built out for other areas of public health, not just COVID • Violence Prevention <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o There are multiple gun bills <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ State Leg - House Judiciary Committee Subcommittee on Equitable Policing 2021 - Firearm Safety policies proposed 2021 Leg HB 2510 Safe Gun Storage ▪ HB 2543 Close Charleston Loophole Background Checks ▪ SB 396 Ban Untraceable and Undetectable Guns ▪ SB 554 Gun Prohibition in Public Bldgs ▪ HJR 5 Public Safety System Reform ▪ HB 2169 Justice for All reform recommendations from the Criminal Justice Reform & Police Accountability Committee of the Racial Justice Council HB 2842 - Removes entering or remaining unlawfully in or on public transit vehicle or public transit station as manner of committing crime of interfering with public transportation. o The County has gone on record in support of several of these bills o Closely coordinating through legal counsel o There was a forum in East County <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Sarah Fast from the Health Promotion team was part of panel to talk about violence prevention framework and efforts in the Cully neighborhood • Hoping to see something about Transportation added to the Sheet <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o REACH just released an excellent report o There is a House bill that is a priority from the City to address East County roads o Transportation could fall under violence prevention <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Timur would be happy to add some points to the document o This would fall under Vision Zero o Adelle will share REACH information and ways for MCPHAB to be involved o Pedestrian fatalities report: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ https://oregonwalks.org/fatal-pedestrian-crash-report/ • What areas do we want to focus on? 	Adelle Adams, Becca Brownlee, Hanna Atenafu

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Transportation o Flavored tobacco ban - had good momentum previously with the Board of Health o There's a lot of movement on menthol <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Dusting off the tactics and employing COVID lens o Trimet included 100,000,000 million dollar transit police budget that passed 5:1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ There is a lot of concern in communities of color that Trimet police specifically target and harm BIPOC communities ▪ https://news.trimet.org/2021/03/multnomah-county-sheriffs-office-takes-command-of-trimets-transit-police-division/ ▪ Transit police structure <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MultCo staff can get more information on this • Transit Equity Committee - could MCPHAB advocate there? • If we're going to go upstream, we would want to look at how Trimet is structured <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Need democratically elected board • Where do we think MCPHAB is uniquely situated and what strategies could we employ? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o OSHA infectious disease standard in the workplace - next week is the deadline for public comment for the permanent rule <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Strong example of things happening in pandemic ▪ Suzanne will share a draft; Nathan will add it to a Google Doc for shared MCPHAB access • MCPHAB approved by consensus the submission of a written letter regarding OSHA infectious disease standard in the workplace 	
Wrap-up and Meeting Evaluation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting adjourned at 5:30pm 	Becca Brownlee, Hanna Atenafu