

Meeting Open at 5:04 p.m.

Attendees: Rogers Johnson, Dottie Morris, Sean Locke, Devon Chaffee, Maria Devlin, Sharon Harris, James Maggiore, Pawn Nitichan, Robert Quinn (arrive 5:18 p.m.), Marianne Rechy, Eliezer Rivera, Allyson Ryder, Trinidad Tellez

Quorum: Yes

Minutes from 4/30/2020 meeting approved unanimously after roll call vote.

Update from the Governor by John Formella:

Discussion:

- Thanked the Council for its letter related to COVID-19 and prompting the Governor to put an action plan together.
- The Governor has established a health equity taskforce to address the racial disparities in COVID-19 infection and hospitalization rates.
- Proceeded to provide an overview of the Governor's actions on recommendations from the 2020 Annual Report:
 - Recognized that many recommendations may be in limbo as a result of COVID-19 and the legislature's hiatus. The legislature's plans will have a significant impact on these efforts but paths forward have been identified.
 - Education Recommendations: MTSS-B is tied up in the legislature and it remains to be seen how that will progress; formal guidance on SB 263 will be a product of collaboration between DOJ, HRC, and DOE; DOE staffing recommendation is something the Governor will likely look to the next budgetary cycle to address; staffing issues arise due to likely budget shortfalls.
 - Employment and Housing Recommendations: The HRC has the Governor's full support and will be exempt from potential budget cuts; Governor is open to potential legislation that would "ban the box" for public sector employees.
 - Individuals with Disabilities Recommendations: No meaningful progress made so far on these recommendations; John will work with Governor to place a person with a disability background on the Council; the Governor will look at moving forward with other recommendations during the next budgetary cycle.
 - Deaf and Hard of Hearing Recommendations: Communication access is on the Governor's agenda for the next budget; there is no update on the recommendation for a nursing home but John did inform us that coming out of the COVID-19 pandemic, there will be a full review of long-term care where this may become a consideration; the Governor's press conferences will be transcribed going forward to make them more accessible.

- Mental Health Recommendations: The Governor is taking continuing steps to comply with the 10-year plan; the budget has made room to address Emergency Room Boarding and although on hold because of COVID, an interim plan has been in place to keep numbers down.
- Law Enforcement Recommendations:
 - Began with a discussion of protests in response to the death of George Floyd in Minnesota. National Guard has been on hand just in case but not actively policing. The goal is to allow for safe, peaceful protest and bring in the National Guard if and only if violence arises. The includes protecting protesters and protests from outsiders seeking to cause harm. Law enforcement has been working with local organizers to maintain peace and identify and remove malefactors.
 - The Governor has been clear internally and externally that George Floyd's death was unacceptable and any sort of violence and racism has no place in New Hampshire. The Governor has been raising these issues on his own.
 - Chief Charlie Dennis, head of the NH Assoc. of Chiefs of Police, put out a statement on behalf of the chiefs.
 - Discussion of the importance of continuing the conversation and the need to get to a granular level.
 - NH State Police shares in the public's disgust and outrage. Working on improving visibility and community relations.
 - John will bring a recommendation that the Governor attend a vigil back to him.
- John Formella needs to leave the meeting, but will return at a later meeting to finish the briefing.
- Advises the council that it does not need to follow the RFP process for an outside trainer.

Further Council Business:

- Law Enforcement: Question of how to frame the issue of law enforcement concerns as advisors to the Governor. Make a statement or examine issues of systemic and institutional racism more closely. Council could bring the matters to our towns and communities. Time to send strong messages in support of minority communities. Discussion of NH State Police practices and goals. Questions of body camera data and costs for local police departments. How do we frame recommendations to municipalities.

(Pawn Nitichan leaves at 6:15 p.m.)

(Jim Maggiore leaves at 6:25 p.m.)

- Listening Sessions: Having a listening session with the COVID Equity Group. Start with the education subgroup to discuss and gather information about education in the time of COVID and the digital divide. Goal is to have as many Council members attend to support the listening session. Will be remote.
 - Motion to Allocate \$3,000 to Listening Session Subcommittee to arrange for interpretive services and technological access for listening sessions: Motion approved unanimously.
- Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Training for Council: Training will be upcoming. Please forward potential trainers to Dottie Morris to vet. Would hire an external trainer and the training would likely be virtual. Discussion of the idea that the Executive Committee would be best situated to plan this and sort out the details.
 - Motion to authorize Executive Committee to put together plans for Diversity Training: Motion approved Unanimously.

New Business

- Discussion of the Health Equity Taskforce and its responsibilities.
- Eli Rivera has spoken with Chief Dennis to identify a replacement for the Chiefs Association.
- Allyson Ryder to draft a recognition from the Council to Chief Wyman for his support.
- Discussion of setting a standing date/time, Executive Committee to coordinate.

Adjourn: 7:05 p.m.