

**February 23, 2021**

**Meeting Open:** 5:33 p.m.

**Attendees:** Ed Taylor for Devon Chaffee, Charlie Dennis, Maria Devlin, Ann Landry, Ahni Malachi, Salman Malik, Robert Quinn, Eli Rivera, Allyson Ryder (in at 6:05 p.m.), Dottie Morris, Sean Locke.

**Quorum:** Yes

**Approval of Minutes:** Approved 8 votes in favor; two abstentions; with one correction noted below.

- Lieutenant of Troop C for Eli Rivera's meeting, bottom of page 1 of minutes

**Update on Honoring Rogers Johnson:**

- Black Heritage Trail is interested in doing an event in June in his honor.
- Dottie to meet with staff at the trail and will have updates for next month.
- Black Heritage Trail idea to put it in Exeter and Swasey Trail. Approximate cost \$1,400.
- Alternative location could be Concord with memorials for elected officials.
- Family is very supportive of the idea and the recognition.
- Allyson's thought is to lean to keeping it closer to the seacoast; possibility of having something in both locations.
- Seacoast African American Cultural Center would be committed to putting up a plaque.
- Question about whether the Council can contribute some of its funds?
  - Sean and Ahni will examine this.
- Ahni suggests working to make it a pokestop.
- Excess funds raised could contribute to Seacoast NAACP scholarship.
- Question of whether the Council could formally fundraise or whether it has to be informal
  - Sean can inquire about this
- Seacoast NAACP or Black Heritage Trail could be the organization to make the donations to.

**Legislation:**

- Discussion of HB 544 led by Ed Taylor
  - Hearing was contentious and the focus was on the education of critical race theory
  - Possible amendment to ban critical race theory
  - Committee had to reschedule the bill to accommodate the public testimony
  - This bill threatens some of the efforts of the LEACT
  - Concerns that the Council should take a stand to oppose the legislation
- Question from Salman Malik about HB 544 and what it entails:
  - Limits state contractors from engaging in training related to certain aspects of race theory
  - The ban would expand to colleges and universities

- The bill is framed in a way that would ban discussions of matters like white supremacy culture
- Independent contractors are more directly impacted because even on their own time they could not engage in these trainings or conversations
- Discussion of how we could address this without stepping outside the Council's boundaries.
  - Sean: We could send a letter advising the Governor to oppose this bill
  - Letter would be a document of public record that goes on the Council's website
- Question of amendments to narrow the scope:
  - Dottie states that there is nothing in this bill that she would like to retain
- **Motion to send a letter to the Governor expressing opposition to HB 544:**
  - **Unanimous approval**
- How to proceed with drafting the letter:
  - Ed and Dottie to work on drafting the letter
  - Sean will review the letter for sending to the Governor's office

#### **Subcommittee Updates:**

- Law Enforcement/State Actor Info:
  - Ahni and Eli met with staff at Franklin Pierce College and will be meeting with the group from Franklin Pierce College that will be coordinating and promoting the event
  - Plan is to pin down a date and time for the event
  - Had a conversation about the goal of the Council and the mission of the meetings.
  - Justice Athletic Alliance
- Education:
  - No updates

#### **GCERT Updates:**

- Kirsten Durzy gives updates on GCERT Activity.
- Tasked to expend some CARES Act funds with GOFFER to minority serving organizations.
  - Approx. 75 applications
  - Disbursed funds to nearly 90% of the applicants
- Describes vaccine reserve process:
  - Portion of vaccine supply is designated to communities disproportionately affected by COVID-19 among other groups, such as populations that may not be able to make use of existing COVID vaccine distribution mechanisms.
- There have been listening sessions with taskforce members and community members and organizations in many different languages and settings.
- Developed a data dashboard that addresses health disparities and in the processing of developing a similar dashboard for vaccine distribution.

- Discovered that some of the demographic data was not be collected until the contact tracing investigation and the state is beginning to collect that data more effectively again.
- CDC data indicates that NH is in the top tier of collecting race and ethnicity data because that helps us determine where the health disparities are arising.
- Bobbie Bagley updates on activities since the report.
- A lot of activity and requests made for the report; since then community partners have used the report to fund some of the recommendations.
  - NH Charitable Foundation granted funds to Manchester and Nashua to fund two community health works for two years. For Nashua that was a benefit of \$290,000.
- Community health centers have developed equity committees to respond to the recommendations in the report and how they can work to support equity in their work and in their workforces.
- Getting mileage out of the recommendations and the work of GCERT
- Goal is to have more listening sessions across the State and continue to hear from community groups and speak with organizations to gather more data.
  - Identifying gaps and assets and developing strategies.
- Tracking disparity data: In terms of vaccine efforts we are at the top of the nation in tracking that data.
  - Greatly increased the data collection around instances of infection, hospitalization, and deaths as a result of case investigation; as numbers grew the case investigations were not as able to gather the data in all cases; recently this has started to change as new infections have decreased. Hospitalization and death data is fairly complete but infection data is not as complete but the data is rising again.
  - Case investigations designed to track and address new cases in certain demographic categories: under 16, racial/ethnic minorities, or over 60 were generally prioritized categories for keeping the data accurate and complete.
- Question of staffing health resources with uncompensated volunteers.
  - Working to provide services, even in-person assistance, for groups who need language access assistance
  - How do we direct people to resources that are more accessible to them?
  - Community health departments are struggling to keep up with language access needs. Goal would be to create more opportunities for hiring people into roles at health centers rather than relying upon volunteers.
- Question about recommendations we had made to the Governor regarding GCERT's work and look at how we plan to approach this area going forward.

**New Business:**

- None

**Public Comment:**

- None

**Next Meeting:** Tuesday, March 23, 2021, at 5:30 p.m.

**Adjourn:** 6:50 p.m.