

Health Equity Collaborative Meeting Notes

1/21/2025

Organizations Present:

- Kitsap Accessible Communities Advisory Council
- Liv Counsel (self)
- Alliance for Equitable Healthcare
- Bremerton Housing Authority
- Catalyst Schools
- Hope 360
- Pacific Asian Group of Kitsap County
- Kitsap County Aging and Long-Term Care
- Kitsap County – Kitsap Board of Commissioners
- Kitsap Mental Health Services
- Olympic Educational Service District
- Salish Behavioral Health

Welcome and Acknowledgements:

- Erica Whares, Equity Coordinator at the Kitsap Public Health District, welcomed attendees and reviewed the agenda.
- Erica acknowledged that it was the National Day of Racial Healing and that the previous day was Martin Luther King Jr. Day.
- HEC members read the Vision and Mission Statements and Collaborative Agreements.

Update:

- Siri Kushner and Jessica Guidry, Directors of the Public Health Infrastructure Division at the Kitsap Public Health District, provided an update to the HEC about key priorities and themes that are driving updates to the HEC. These priorities/themes include:
 - Accountability and transparency
 - Sustainability and financial stewardship
 - Impact
 - Strategy
 - Cocreation & mutual benefit

HEC Handbook Feedback:

- HEC members provided feedback on the first draft of the HEC handbook. Areas of discussion included:
 - HEC members asked that we all keep the intent of the collaborative in mind to ground our actions and edits to the handbook to make sure we're ensuring alignment with the intent of the group.
 - HEC members would like the handbook translated to Spanish.
 - Members would like to review the handbook to identify opportunities to switch from "government speak" to "community language"

- Suggestion to consider changing “roles and responsibilities” to something like “ways to participate”
 - Suggestion to consider changing the word “must” throughout the document
 - Suggestion to consider changing the name of the document to “HEC membership guide”
- HEC members would like to ensure that guidelines in the handbook do not extend further than necessary. For example, guidelines related to compensation, required for KPHD funding needs are necessary, but guidelines about guests feel unnecessary.
 - HEC members discussed the possibility of having a way to check if members would require reimbursement or not. We could also find ways for members to “offer” their compensation to a guest.
- HEC members would like to review the language for memberships on page 8. The way it is worded right now could exclude individuals who have meaningful connection and impact to health equity. The current draft reads as being focused on organizations as participants not community members joining based on their individual lived experiences.
 - HEC members shared it is important to keep language related to lived experience and to ensure that this space is created for partnership among people with lived experiences.
- HEC members would like to make sure the difference between members and guests are clearly outlined in the handbook.
- HEC members are interested in more clarity on the criteria that will be used to extend “full membership” after someone joins a meeting as a guest.
 - Erica shared that the criteria used will match membership guidelines on page 7 of the current draft: 1) lived experience with health inequities 2) work, serve, or advocate for people in Kitsap County who experience(d) health inequities; as well as availability to attend and/or participate in HEC meetings and activities.
- HEC members would like to maintain the ability to invite guests to meetings as they see appropriate.
 - Members asked for clarity about the timeframe in which they are asked to notify KPHD about bringing a guest to a meeting.
- HEC members would like to include a note about ongoing engagement and report outs to the general community about the HEC’s activities with the intent of awareness, accountability, to build membership, and to promote inclusion.
 - Suggestion to consider adding a note to the roles and responsibilities section that states members will share HEC updates (e.g., activities, progress, events) with the organizations they are affiliated with.
- HEC members would like language/process related to member contributions to HEC meeting agendas to be added to the handbook.

- HEC members are asked to connect (e.g., call, email, meet) with KPHD's equity team to provide suggested handbook edits by **Monday March 10, 2025** for inclusion in the version that will be reviewed by the HEC at the March meeting.

Workgroup Launches:

- Erica shared that we will be pausing the data workgroup launch until after the data presentation from KPHD's Assessment and Epidemiology team at the March HEC meeting.
- Erica will send out doodle polls to all members of the HEC this month to identify which workgroups each member is interested in joining, member availability for workgroup kick off meetings in February, and members who are interested in co-facilitating each of the workgroups.
- HEC members noted that workgroups could consider creating their own charters, once formed, to add additional structure to the groups while keeping the main HEC handbook more broad.

Share Outs:

- Karisha Stanely – Bremerton Housing Authority
 - Bremerton School District and Bremerton Housing Authority are partnering with Enterprise and other community organizations to house families impacted by homelessness in new housing on Wheaton Way. Enterprise will be holding listening session to inform the services that are built related to this housing development. They are looking for people with lived experience to be part of the listening sessions. If you or someone you know is interested in being part of listening sessions, please reach out to Karisha or Erica.
- Gabriela Ituarte – We Are Better Together Foundation
 - We are Better Together Foundation has started several events and campaigns this month focused on supporting the Latino community. They have started a campaign focused on educating families about their rights, will be hosting community conversations every other week, and will start hosting weekend events where community members can come to have documents translated and notarized free of cost. We Are Better Together Foundation is looking for multipliers to support and help get the word out about these events. Please reach out to Gabriela for more information.
- KIAC is hosting “know your rights” events in partnership with the Washington Immigrant Solidarity Network.
- There will be a Kitsap Project Connect Services and Information Recourse Fair next week from January 28-30. <https://sites.google.com/view/kitsaprojectconnect>
- Nanine Nicolette – Salish Behavioral Health
 - OBHA does a Monthly Behavioral Health Forum. Open to the public, via zoom. It is the last Tuesday of each month from 3-4:30. Zoom link:

<https://zoom.us/j/99850332385?pwd=S2ZZSzF6Q2czdTh1eXA4OHdTc3ZrQT09>

Meeting ID: 998 5033 2385

Passcode: Welcome!

Closure:

- Meeting ended at 3:35