

Kitsap Health Equity Collaborative meeting

March 19, 2024 – 2 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Organizations present	
Kitsap Public Health District	We Are Better Together Foundation
KIAC	Peninsula Community Health Services
Living Life Leadership	Kitsap Black Student Union
Living Arts Cultural Heritage Center	Filipino American Association
LGBTQ State Commission	Virginia Mason Franciscan Health/SMMC
Young Democrats of Kitsap Peninsula	Sinclair Baptist Church
Kitsap Mental Health Services	Kitsap Community Resources
Central Kitsap School District	Surviving Change
Kitsap Strong	One Heart Wild
Foundation for Homeless and Poverty Management	Kitsap Division of Aging and Long-Term Care
Bremerton Housing Authority	Kitsap County
NAACP Bremerton	Bremerton Municipal Court
Gather Together Grow Together	OESD
Suquamish Tribe	

- Hybrid meeting start time: 2:05 p.m.
- Jessica gave an intro of Equity & Performance merger
- Land acknowledgement and labor acknowledgement
- Vision statement – A product of our collaboration.
- Overview of meeting agenda:
 - Learn about interview inputs and future meeting topics.
 - Follow-up from Maria calling collaborative partners; those results will be shared today though Maria is absent. This will be used to plan for the next meetings.
 - Hear about new DEI role at Kitsap County.
 - Hear updates and opportunities from each other.
- Introductions – Online and in-person
- 2023 Highlights Recap
- Meeting for a little over a year and so far, we have talked about:
 - Three barriers to health
 - Housing and homelessness, mental health, access to healthcare
 - Deep dives: Housing, mental health
 - Vision and mission statements, norms
 - Feedback to KPHD, VMFH about strategic plan, community health needs assessment, respectively
 - Relationship building
 - Sharing who we are, what we are doing, what we care about
- HEC Member Interviews from Maria (presented by Siri)
 - Preliminary findings done in Feb. 2024
 - 61 participants were invited, 39 interviews were completed, two participants declined, 66% participation rate (from Feb. 15 to March 1)

- Interview questions shared – questions about substance use disorder/opioids, lack of healthcare access
 - Results
 - "Which topics should be discussed first?" 20 responses for access to healthcare, 16 responses for substance use disorder/opioids, 1 unable to finish survey (37 total)
 - Access to healthcare themes
 - Lack of culturally competent services (20)
 - Determinants of health play a key role in public health outcomes, even when there is access to healthcare (16)
 - Current systems are inadequate to meet community needs (15)
 - Negative healthcare outcomes due to lack of trust (14)
 - Difficulty navigating the system (10)
 - Substance use disorder (SUD)/opioid themes
 - Goal was to understand what specifically people were interested in – general SUD or opioid-specific?
 - 27 were interested in broad topic area, 9 wanted opioid-specific
 - Meetings – 33 of 37 people said they could stay if the meetings were extended to two hours from the current 1.5 hours
- Future meeting topics
 - Want our meetings, agenda to be informed by participants
 - Proposal for the rest of 2024:
 - March – hear about feedback from interviews
 - May – Healthcare with a focus on options based on interview inputs/local resources
 - July – Substance use disorders/opioids
 - September – Recap and updates on the top 3 barriers, discussion around actions
 - November – Action planning
 - Please send your feedback to help us plan: equity@kitsappublichealth.org
 - Feedback from the group on future meetings
 - Back to conversation on topics/action
- Proposed idea for next meeting: Focus on future group actions? Figure out where folks want to get involved
 - For example: Legislative, planning opportunities, etc.
- Diversity Equity and Inclusion program manager at county – intro for Kimberlee Williams (kywilliams@kitsap.gov)
 - Her role at the county and what it looks like in her office and out in the community
 - Some of the things she enjoys most is what she gets to partner with us on
 - County brought her in to focus internally and externally, a lot of work but really is two sides of the same coin – proactive and reactive
 - Supportive in times of crisis – George Floyd was murdered, tribal member was murdered, many different incidents, etc. Racist acts mentioned.

- Showing up to be a voice of support or be a listening ear
- Internally – Create training for staff, especially those out in the community
 - Create opportunities for elected officials all the way down to hourly employees to learn, watch them grow and create culture of inclusivity and belonging here in Kitsap
 - Not something that has always been, not something people feel even today
- Externally – Building bridges between county and community partners, residents to make sure they know of services available to them through county and bringing down barriers to the services
 - Ex: A blind woman who needed assistance at today's job fair when her assistance didn't show up
 - Has worked hard to do this since November, there shouldn't be a barrier we can't overcome so residents can access services they have a right to
- Next steps for the collaborative
 - To talk about what's going on in topics we mentioned, options to act, substance use prevention team update
 - Want to add any more events? Email Equity@kitsappublichealth.org