

Steering Committee February 9, 2021 Meeting Summary

# Attendance

## Voting Steering Committee Members

## *Present (via Zoom):* Sharon Moore,Jack Billi, Alfreda Rooks, Alonzo Lewis, Ann Davis, Ginny Creasman, Pam Smith, Doug Strong, Brent Williams, Nancy Graebner, Mark Hausman, Rosalie Tocco-Bradley, Naomi Norman, Marti Walsh, Kim Hulbert

*Phone*: N/A

*Absent*: Julie Aronica, Elizabeth Vanderpool, Trish Cortes,Tony Denton, Greg Dill, Katrina Bozada, Connie Conklin, Liz Conlin, Leah Corneail, Juan Marquez, Sara Szcoztka, Curtis Thornton, Paul Valenstein, Jeremy Lapedis, Jimena Loveluck

*Ex Officio* Steering Committee Members Present (via Zoom): Alena Hill

## CHRT staff (via Zoom): Deana Smith, Terrisca Des Jardins, Jenna Combs, Elizabeth Jahn, Robyn Rontal, Ryan Bartholomew, Sam Iovan, Nancy Baum, Andrew Smentkowski, Matt Hill, Erica Matti

# Key Summary Points

* **Approval of past meeting notes:**
	+ November Meeting notes:
		- Reviewed and approved.
* **Announcements:**
* **WHI Funds as a bridge for MiCC:**
	+ WHI approved gap funding for up to $40,000 to support the MiCC (SIM) for the period of Oct-Dec 2020. Due to funding from the State, these funds were not needed.
		- The Steering Committee approved the use of these ‘stop gap’ funds for continuing work from MiCC, specifically:
			* To ensure the continuity of care managers
			* To maintain services and supports for all individuals that currently enrolled
* **New Steering Committee Members:**
	+ **Pastor Mashod Evans:** Approved.
	+ **Community Ambassador - 1 Position Open:**
		- **Angela Moore:** Approved.
* **WHI 2021 Focus on Racial Equity:**
	+ Vaccine efforts:
		- 1. Vaccine distribution
			* Ro: putting on the table the critical and time sensitive nature of vaccine distribution. Struggling to get vaccine to the most vulnerable and can the WHI help in some manner
			* Jack: Who owns the problem? Health Department? Go to those who own the problem and ask what we may do to help
			* Ginny: VA has strong process and resources in place, but no one has outreached to learn their lessons or coordinate.
			* Alfreda: MM has comprehensive planning process in place to address equity issues in vaccine distribution. More to come when plan is released.
			* Marti: equity in distribution needs constant awareness. Are there metrics we can look at?
			* Sharon: people fear speaking up
		- WHI should reach out to Washtenaw Health Dept regarding how the WHI can help/assist with amplifying communication regarding correct and up to date information surrounding the COVID vaccine and distribution
		- Encourage Health Department to reach out to the VA regarding troubleshooting distribution issues to specific populations (seniors, communities of color, etc.)
	+ Ann Davis/Marti Walsh - Health Systems have initiated (processes?) to promote equity advocacy for patients to ensure needs are met, examples:
		- * Understanding and utilizing different forms of communication to better patient understanding (i.e. Picture cards, familiar terminology, etc.)
			* Initiating a patient “advocate”, individual who can provide support during provider appointments also ensure patient is ‘heard’ or acknowledged
				+ Could this practice be applied to assist with racial equity?
		- Sharon Moore – Health Equity surrounding emotional trauma of racism; what is being done to counsel mental abuse from racial inequity in the health systems?
	+ General conversation on DEI and potential role for WHI:
		- * Racism is personal and systemic at the same time which makes any work multi-dimensional very complex
			* The impact of racism as trauma that impacts a person’s and community’s longer-term mental and physical health
			* Opportunity for training and change of approach to clinical interactions
			* WHI’s role: collaborative table/connector, with a health delivery focus to date. What are we uniquely qualified to do?
				+ Looking at Vaccine Data/Metrics
				+ Clearinghouse to document what is going on in the community
				+ The WHI has multiple forums of potential influence: Steering Committee, Stakeholders Group and Workgroups
				+ Strength in communications
			* Supporting a forum for primary care to connect conversations about and work/training on trauma informed care
			* Creating space in each WHI meeting for people to share what they are doing on equity and anti-racism
	+ CHAT FEEDBACK:
		- Naomi Norman:
			* I’m also curious about a current challenge we are facing around vaccinations. We haven’t been able to get our teachers vaccinated, especially on the east side of the county. The inequities are stark from my perspective.
		- Pam Smith:
			* Access is always a critical juncture point - people feeling like they have it and the ability to follow through
		- Erin Spanier:
			* Can the WHI Communications Committee help share info about the community popup events with NGOs in 48197/48198? Rely on community leaders at those NGOs to get the information to the residents who need it most? My understanding is that if you have a PCP you are supposed to wait for the PCP to reach out to you. What if you don't have a PCP? Or don't have a close relationship with your PCP? If there's a way that we can get the word out via communications? Also, are PCPs contacting all patients? Or are they triaging their patients by # of chronic conditions and other complicating factors?
		- Jack Billi:
			* <https://wcms-mi.org/2020/07/24/wcms-covid-19-workgroup-resources-and-recordings/>
			* This is the link to the recordings of the every 2 week conference calls with County Health Dept, County Medical Society, UMHS, St Joes, VA, community physicians, etc. feel free to listen to these meetings. Last one was 2/3.
		- Ginny Creasman:
			* Alfreda, is there an opportunity for the VA chaplains to interface with the workgroup?
		- Naomi Norman:
			* I appreciate the commitment and focus to racial equity. I’d also be interested in knowing more about priority areas in the large hospital systems. The county school districts are also focusing on dismantling systemic racism within their systems. I’m thinking that the challenges are deep in the heart of each of us and in our larger community. It is personal and systemic at the same time.
		- Erin Spanier:
			* Our WHI Comms Comm members are anxious to help with this vital work both as a WHI work group and as professional health and social service communicators.
		- Pam Smith:
			* Recommendations from the Trusted Advisors Establish clear understanding about expectations at appointments Create a welcoming space for all family members, especially children Create a method for a “warm handoff” to meet psychosocial needs of patients Identify implicit bias in the workplace Have staff undergo implicit bias training Create opportunities for mothers to support each other: Centering model Breastfeeding support groups I know trinity health is bringing the Equity challenge internally to all of its employees across the state
		- Naomi Norman:
			* As a white women, I’m aware of the importance of going through my own racial identity development. And the further I go with that work, the more clear I am getting on actions for racial justice that I can take in my systems leader role. I’m curious about the systems leadership priorities in other large systems, and how we multiply the impact of our individual efforts. Changing the narrative, using different metrics, lifting voices.
		- Brent Williams:
			* Strongly second that examining my own race identity (white descendant of Northern Europeans) - and all its implications - has been the place to start.
		- Pam Smith:
			* <https://www.ywcaofcleveland.org/blog/2021/02/09/8854/> If you read through it you will see it covers many of the topics we discussed today trauma informed care, elimination of bias in medicine, health equity, women’s health and mental health. Thank you for the great conversation today.
* **Next Steps:**
	+ **March Steering 3/9 ’s meeting:**
		- **Continue Racial Equity conversation**
		- **Pam Smith will share strategies utilized at United Way to address racial equity within their organization**
	+ **March Stakeholder’s 3/15 meeting**

# Action Items

# Next Meeting Tuesday, March 9th, 2021 10:00 –11:30 AM