

Education and Health Work Group Meeting Notes

ANC Task Force on Racism

Friday, August 14, 2020 4pm-5pm EST

Meeting Attendees: Jerry Malitz, Subrat Biswal, Judy Miller, Stacy Beck, Chris Ott

Announcements: Jerry informed this team that:

- Jerry created a **Google Drive** and sent invitations to our group so we can all view files and/links that could be useful to our group, he will convert them to Word documents and add them to this Google Drive for our information; Meeting notes and Agendas are also on this Google Drive; Everyone has Edit Privileges to this; this is to encourage collaboration on our Task Force Work Group
- **Mayor Bowser will be hosting a Virtual Town Hall on Wednesday, August 19th**, on **DC Faces** (working group charged with evaluating DC-owned public spaces to ensure that namesake legacies are consistent with DC values); there is a public survey that is out to address that ~~and Jerry will send to group~~ it can be found at:
<https://forms.dc.gov/f/dcfaces>
- **Work Group Listservs:** Many of the Task Force Work Groups have gone onto their own Listservs, and there is one for Education and Health Work Group and all are invited to join if they so wish; Jerry will **not** be participating in that E&H Work Group Listserv because: 1) He doesn't want people who are new to Listservs spend time figuring out to use a Listserv since our time together is so limited; 2) This is an official ANC Task Force and as such, everything we all communicate is part of official ANC business, and Jerry intends to keep all that on his ANC email for transparency purposes; Freedom of Information Act will sometimes inquire about communication and Jerry wishes to maintain full transparency via the Task Force and Work Group email communications
- **Jerry received a request from another Work Group on the Task Force to have our group clarify specifically what we are working on with regards to "Education"** as it relates to the Community; Jerry clarified that the E&H Work Group is not about educating the community, rather it is focused on schools and students, teachers, DCPS staff.
 - Chris did interject that she herself, and many other residents of Ward 3 and Ward 4 may not be parents, and therefore will not know what students are learning as it relates to anti-racism lessons, curriculum etc... and as such, being a friend and neighbor to many in the community who do have school-aged children, it would be useful to have access to this type of information so that all of our community residents can be informed and aligned with what the

students/their families are learning so we can all participate in supporting this growth; Jerry agreed and will ask Chanda (Community Work Group) to take on the interchange between the school and the community; Stacy feels “constantly awed” by what her children, who are student in (Deal) DCPS, have learned about Black History and Civil Rights and it permeates through the curriculum; She is impressed by this because this part of American History was never taught when she was in school; Subrat agreed that overall, his children, who are also students at Lafayette, the curriculum is very diverse and what Lafayette School did with the history of Lafayette Park and so forth has been impressive;

- **Next full ANC Task Force on Racism will be August 24, 2020**; the purpose of this meeting will be to give each Work Group the chance to refine identified issues that they plan to address, not the activities, not the final goals, but the issues that we plan to address; Remind everyone we are trying to identify things we can accomplish in our area then transfer those lessons learned to other parts of DC as well;

HEALTH:

- **Disparate Rates of COVID-19 infections:** Stacy mentioned a prominent “of the moment” issue as it relates to racism, is the disparate impact that COVID-19 is having on Black and Brown communities; and to figure out how to address this is very challenging
- **Mortality Rates:** Stacy also mentioned the high mortality rate during child birth and following child birth is disproportionately high in Black and Brown Mothers;
- **COVID-19 Vaccine Access:** Chris mentioned that access to COVID-19 vaccines, when they become available; we need to identify ways to remove any barriers to access to this vaccine in every community in DC
- **Nutrition:** Jerry discussed multiple studies showing that children who come to school hungry do not perform/learn as well as students who have eaten breakfast prior to starting school. Hot breakfast for students is run by the ~~DOA~~USDA, <https://www.fns.usda.gov/sbp/school-breakfast-program>, not Dept.'s of Health or Education, ~~and brought up t~~The idea was brought up about potentially working with some restaurants locally to provide hot breakfasts to all students; Stacy said Deal and Lafayette have free hot breakfasts; but when schools are closed, like now, free hot meals are still offered, but transportation to these meals is an obstacle/burden for many families who need it; Judy proposes some thought go into logistics going forward to identify means of transportation to food insecure families to ensure they get meals; Jerry stated that as of July 27th there are 45 locations across the city that serve meals to anyone under the age of 18 years (only 1 in Ward 3, Wilson HS). But transportation to these locations remains a barrier to access.

EDUCATION:

- Aaron Gorman requested (via email to Chris) that our group propose further in-depth education in DCPS during Black History Month as well add Anti-Racism content to the DCPS curriculums; Jerry noted Aaron's name was on the Petition to change the name of the formerly Newlands Fountain Circle, and Aaron was listed as an Organizer of this petition ([see: https://www.change.org/p/muriel-bowser-remove-the-racist-plaque-in-chevy-chase-circle](https://www.change.org/p/muriel-bowser-remove-the-racist-plaque-in-chevy-chase-circle)).
- **School-to-School Initiative:** Stacy brought this up and this encourages PTA's (aka HSA's) to give a portion of their budget to other schools ([Lafayette gives less than approximately 1% of what they collect](#)); the HSA did a survey ~~at~~ of the parent body, asking different priorities and she was disappointed to see that [that type of sharing was](#) one of the lowest ranking; another interesting point that was raised was that when a Non-Profit is formed, raising money for the stated purpose of the organization [is of paramount importance](#);
- **Urban League:** Stacy thinks the Urban League has a program that provides the opportunity to raise money for the schools independent of PTA contributions;
- **DC Education Equity Fund:** Subrat shared with the group that this Fund, <https://www.dcedequity.org/>, helps students and teachers get access to laptops, but funds won't be available until the new budget is available sometime in October. Lafayette is trying to coordinate these resources for their teachers;
- **Virtual Learning DCPS during COVID-19:** Jerry brought up that the "Back to School" campaigns/TV commercials that occur this time each year require more money spent by each student's family for laptops, headphones, iPad, router, tech tools that will cost approx.. \$1100/student to "attend" school this year virtually, which is an impossible amount of money for close to at least 50% of the kids that are in DCPS; Chevy Chase has ~~a bad~~ [less than a sterling](#) reputation in the District [in regard due to racial composition, income equality; housing equality...](#) [Jerry proposes the opportunity to put our money where our mouths are and contribute to providing resources to DCPS students who need money to buy the requisite tools for virtual learning; Stacy commented that with the group Lafayette Gives Back, separate from the HSAAS, they encourage people to donate directly to the PTO at Takoma Educational Campus their needs are far greater than DCPS in Wards 3 and 4. They also participate in the Amazon Smile program have an Amazon Wish List. She will circulate the links to our group.](#)
- We agree to keep this conversation going through our email link to keep the ideas coming forward prior to our next Zoom meeting
- **Create a Foundation for DCPS:** Judy would like to create a Foundation like this because the need is so great; The group agrees.
- **Other Community Groups to Interact with?** Jerry said Peter Lynch mentioned that he's a member of the Ward 3 Democratic Party and is aware of many groups across the city

that we could “learn ourselves up on”. Reminder to look at our Group’s Google Drive for added content

- **Data Gathering Group:** merged into the Community Group and it was decided that each Sub Work Group would deal with their own data needs.; For example, if we did a survey for the task Force each workgroup would have a ~~each~~ section, in the questionnaire, there’s a lot of things we can try to find out; such as, “What % would you be interested in donating/contributing to...” because people seem ready to do something; Let’s start thinking of questions we would like to ask our community in such a survey; Jerry ANC3/4G had 950 respondents to a survey on the Community Center ~~he did previously,~~ providing excellent data which contributed to ~~resulted in~~ getting ~~awarded~~ more money for the project.