

Health Equity Task Force established by Chapter 93 of the Acts of 2020

Health Equity Meeting Minutes for Friday, September 18, 2020, 12:00 – 1:00PM

Members in Attendance: Senator Julian Cyr, Dr. Assaad Sayah, Beverly Stables, Dr. Kiame Mahaniah, Michael Curry, Representative Donald H. Wong, Dr. Myechia Minter-Jordan, Representative Chynah Tyler, Jeffrey Sanchez, Dr. Frank Robinson, Senator Sonia Chang-Diaz, and Dr. Cassandra Pierre

Members Not in Attendance: Dr. Milagros Abreu, Hiram Shah, Representative Jose Tosado, and Representative Carlos González

The Co-Chair Dr. Assaad Sayah opened the meeting and welcomed Health Equity Task Force members and the public and reviewed the open meeting law requirements for remote virtual meetings. A roll call was conducted to confirm attendance and that participants could hear the proceedings.

Approval of the minutes for the September 3rd Health Equity Task Force meeting was conducted by roll call vote.

The Co-Chair reviewed the meeting agenda and the charge of the task force under chapter 93 of the Acts of 2020.

The Co-Chair opened conversation and Task Force member reflected on the public hearing held September 16th.

There was an open discussion of a process for Task Force members to take leadership roles on sections aligned with the Task Force's legislative charge and the expertise and interests of Task Force members.

- There was agreement to appoint at least 2 Task Force members to take a leadership role in reviewing and developing findings to bring back to the full Task Force for each of the 8 sections.
- A matrix will be used for this work, and to cross-map the specific input from all stakeholders, building on the ongoing work on overall health disparities and COVID-19.
- Co-Chair staff will be available as a resource and will schedule meetings with each task force member.

The Task Force discussed the proposal for an October interim summary report focused on emerging FY 2021 state budget considerations related to COVID-19 and health equity.

Members volunteered for leadership roles on sections, and assignments and consultations will be made with Members not present.

Members discussed an objective for future presentation(s) by EOHHS/COVID-19 Command Center among potential future presentations.