

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

### **Meeting Minutes for Tuesday, September 29, 2020, 4:00PM – 6:00PM.**

**Members in Attendance:** Senator Julian Cyr, Dr. Assaad Sayah, Beverly Stables, Dr. Kiame Mahaniah, Michael Curry, Rep. Donald H. Wong, Hiram Shah, Dr. Frank Robinson, Dr. Milagros Abreu, Senator Sonia Chang-Diaz, Dr. Cassandra Pierre

**Members Not in Attendance:** Representative Jose Tosado, Representative Carlos González, Representative Chynah Tyler, Dr. Myechia Minter-Jordan, Jeffrey Sanchez

**Guest Speakers in Attendance:** Dr. S. Atyia Martin (Black Boston COVID Coalition), Gladys Vega (Executive Director, Chelsea Collaborative), Tom Ambrosino (Chelsea City Manager)

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. Co-Chair Michael Curry conducted a roll call to confirm attendance and that participants could hear the proceedings.

Remarks by Tom Ambrosino, Chelsea City Manager about the significant impacts of COVID-19 on the residents and community of Chelsea. Priorities were discussed in areas including housing and eviction prevention, food distribution, state-funded isolation housing/hotels, mobile testing, state-supported contact tracing through the Community Tracing Collaborative, and support for local public health departments.

Remarks by Gladys Vega, Executive Director, Chelsea Collaborative on the tremendous impacts of COVID-19 on residents of Chelsea and the critical partnership between community-based organizations, the City of Chelsea, the state, and health care partners. Among major areas of need are housing, homelessness prevention, food resources, and unemployment assistance.

Floor was opened to dialogue for the Task Force members and Chelsea presenters.

Remarks by Dr. Atyia Martin of the Black Boston COVID Coalition. Areas discussed include the impact of COVID-19 on black residents of the City of Boston, best practices in emergency management and pandemic planning and recovery that are true partnerships with the community and diverse residents, significant unemployment rates and implications for future workforce development strategies, and equitable resources for testing, tracking and tracing where people who are disproportionately bearing the burden are located.

Co-Chair Michael Curry facilitated approval of the minutes for the September 19<sup>th</sup> Health Equity Task Force meeting.

Co-Chair Sayah covered the interim summary report under development for the legislature and asked each Task Force section leadership team to present the emerging priorities identified with an emphasis on the FY21 State Budget and policy priorities.

Co-Chairs opened for discussion and questions.

Next meeting October 7<sup>th</sup> from 10:30-Noon with a discussion that an additional October meeting would need to be scheduled during the week of October 13 to finalize the October interim summary report.

Meeting closed.