



Health Equity Task Force

October 7, 2020 Meeting

Welcome

This is the sixth meeting of the legislative task force established by Chapter 93 of the Acts of 2020 (referred to as the “Health Equity Task Force”) to study and make recommendations to the General Court that address health disparities for underserved or underrepresented populations based on culture, race, ethnicity, language, disability, gender identity, sexual orientation, geographic location, including, but not limited to, gateway cities with hospitals dedicated to caring for patients who test positive for COVID-19, and age in the commonwealth during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Health Equity Task Force Members

Senate Appointees

Senator Sonia Chang-Diaz

Senator Julian Cyr

Task Force Co-Chair, Michael Curry, Esq., Deputy CEO and General Counsel at Massachusetts League of Community Health Centers

Dr. Milagros Abreu, Executive Director, President and Founder of The Latino Health Insurance Program

Dr. Cassandra Pierre, infectious diseases physician and Assistant Professor of Medicine at Boston University

Dr. Frank Robinson, Vice President, Public Health and Community Relations, Baystate Health

Hirak Shah, Legal Counsel for Senate Minority Leader Bruce Tarr

House Appointees

Representative Chynah Tyler

Representative José F. Tosado

Task Force Co-Chair, Dr. Assaad Sayah, CEO, Cambridge Health Alliance; Commissioner of Public Health, City of Cambridge; Assistant Professor, Harvard Medical School

Dr. Kiame Mahaniah, CEO, Lynn Community Health Center

Dr. Myechia Minter-Jordan, President & CEO, DentaQuest Partnership for Oral Health Advancement and Catalyst Institute

Jeffrey Sanchez, Lecturer, Center for Public Health Leadership, TH Chan School of Public Health; Senior Advisor, Rasky Partners

Beverly Stables, Health Care Policy Analyst for House Minority Leader Bradley H. Jones, Jr.

Chair of the MA Black and Latino Legislative Caucus

Representative Carlos González

Chair of the MA Asian-American Legislative Caucus

Representative Donald H. Wong

Agenda

Description: This meeting will be used to review and prioritize recommendations to be submitted to the Legislature via the Health Equity Task Force Interim Summary Report on October 14, 2020.

1. Welcome and Introductions of Task Force Members & Approval of September 29 Meeting Minutes
2. Perspectives from Massachusetts Black & Latino and Asian-American Legislative Caucuses
3. Logistics Overview of Draft Interim Report content and Feedback Process
4. Discussion of Key Areas
5. Open Discussion & Next Steps

Logistics Discussion

In today's meeting, we will have a high level overview and strategic discussion of key areas in the Interim Summary Report, which focuses on emerging FY21 state budget and policy priorities.

- **All feedback and edits to draft interim report due by EOD FRIDAY, October 9th, 2020.**

All feedback and edits submitted after friday have no guarantee of being incorporated into the report.

- **Encourage Members to reflect on key priority recommendation areas.**

This feedback may be voiced during today's meeting or submitted to Donna (dfox@challiance.org) and Morgan (mmccallister@massleague.org) via email by EOD Friday, October 9th, 2020.

- Will schedule individual/group calls with Task Force members on Thursday and Friday to obtain input/feedback on draft interim report.
- Updated version of the interim report (based on feedback received) will be sent to Task Force Members by Monday, October 12 for discussion and approval at the October 14th meeting.

Emerging FY 2021 State Budget and Policy Priorities

Charge 1: Improve Safety for Populations at Increased Risk for COVID-19

- ❖ Emergency Paid Sick Leave
- ❖ Isolation Housing/Hotels re COVID-19
- ❖ Decarceration in the context of COVID-19

Charge 2: Remove Barriers and Increase Access to Quality and Equitable Health Care Services

- ❖ Telehealth Parity & Coverage/ Digital Divide
- ❖ MassHealth Eligibility and Benefits
- ❖ Children's Health Care Access

Charge 3: Increase Access to Medical Supplies

- ❖ Bulk Purchasing of Medical Supplies

Charge 4: Increase Access to Testing

- ❖ Expand and Extend Stop the Spread Initiatives
- ❖ COVID-19 Testing and Enhanced Contact Tracing
- ❖ Statewide Surveillance Testing
- ❖ Uniform COVID-19 Testing Requirements for Entry to Congregate Settings

Charge 5: Provide Info Materials to Underserved/ Underrepresented Populations in Multiple Languages

- ❖ Language Access at State Agencies
- ❖ State Public Service Announcements Campaign
- ❖ Culturally & Linguistically Responsive Materials & CBO Outreach

Charge 6: Address Any Other Relevant Factors to Address Health Disparities

- ❖ Housing Stability & Eviction/Foreclosure Prevention
- ❖ Food Security
- ❖ Continued Funding for EOHEM Emergency Cash Assistance Program
- ❖ End Deep Poverty By Gradually Raising Cash Assistance

Charge 8: Other Areas of Recommendations

- ❖ Local Public Health COVID-19 & Health Equity Response
- ❖ Equitable COVID-19 Vaccines
- ❖ Behavioral Health Equity
- ❖ Data and Reporting for Health Equity Informed COVID-19 Efforts

Next Steps

October 14th, 2020 (12:30 - 2 PM):

1. **Task Force Meeting-** Roll Call Vote for Approval of Interim Summary Report
2. **Submission of Interim Summary Report**

Already Scheduled Meetings (10:30 - Noon):

- October 28
- November 11, 18
- December 2, 16

Additional Information & Future Presentations

Please let us know of interests.

- Official EOHHS/COVID-19 Command Center and DPH Office of Health Equity Requests Coordinated by Co-Chairs
- Future Presentations