



CENTRAL HEALTH



# Central Health Equity Policy Council Meeting

October 21, 2020



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# Where we left off

## Healthcare Equality Index initiative

- Partnership with the Human Rights Campaign
- Plan to pilot the inclusion of intersex
- Kick off event with Marcos Garcia, the Associate Director for the Healthcare Equality Project (April 2, 2020) was postponed
- Initiative has been put on hold for the foreseeable future



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# New path forward

- Pandemic equity conversations
- Race Equity Committee
- Upcoming 87th Texas Legislative Session
- Collaboration with Collaborative Council for Mental Health funded by the Patient Centered Outcomes Research Institute



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# Pandemic Equity

- Safety net prioritization in disaster planning and response efforts
- Data collection during a disaster
- Accessing preventative health services during a disaster
- Seamless connectivity to social services
- Increasing services and access to telehealth and telemedicine



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# Research Committee

- Pandemic equity
  - Policies that we can lead or support to help achieve more equitable outcomes in this pandemic and, more broadly, in a disaster response
- Post-pandemic
  - Evaluate what the CHEP Council can do until the healthcare system is ready for the HEI Initiative



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*“As we work through the challenges of COVID-19 and our shared history of structural racism, we cannot underestimate the effects these two realities have on one another. The virus raises a lens to the inequalities in work, education, access, digital divide, housing, and so many other social determinants of health. Moreover, the structures that divided Central Austin in 1927 are still present in these disparities today.”*

*- Kristin duBay Horton*



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# Race Equity Committee

## Scope of work

- The Committee, **with direction of a consultant**, will develop a set of criteria to ensure that race equity is prominent during the evaluation of potential policies for the CHEP Council to pursue as initiatives



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# Race Equity Committee

## Two-pronged approach:

### 1. Community-based participatory research (CBPR) method as defined as:

A collaborative approach to research that equitably involves all partners in the research process and recognizes the unique strengths that each brings. CBPR begins with a research topic of importance to the community and has the aim of combining knowledge with action and achieving social change to improve health outcomes and eliminate health disparities

### 1. Research driven identification of best practices



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# Race Equity Committee

## Process:

- Led by a consultant, a committee possibly comprised of safety net patients, staff, and CHWs paired with research committee members will develop the race equity criteria
- Full CHEP Council will approve the criteria
- Race equity criteria will be applied to all potential policies going through the evaluation process
- A timeline of 1 year



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# Race Equity Committee Commitment

- Up to 2 two-hour meetings per month for up to 1 year
  - These meetings may be during the evenings or weekends
- Attend a two-day training on race equity
- Help with committee member recruitment
- Help with research and identification of best practices



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# 87th Texas Legislative Session Committee

- Track legislative bills that are of interest to the CHEP Council
- Communicate with the full CHEP Council on opportunities for advocacy



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# Upcoming Legislative Session

- Telehealth
- Women's health
- Community Health Workers
- COVID-19 response
- Funding for social services
- Data collection
- Service expansion for mental health and substance abuse



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# Next steps

- Request for Proposals for race equity consultant
- Convene the three committees
  - Pandemic Equity Committee (TBD)
  - 87<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislative Session Committee (convening in November)
  - Race Equity Committee (launch in January)
- Request membership to the Facebook group
- Legislative trainings in December and February



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# Coming in Spring 2021....

Dr. Virginia Brown, Dept. of Population Health and Dept. of Psychiatry, University of Texas Dell Medical School



Patient Centered Outcomes Research Institute

Collaborative Council for Mental Health with the goal of creating patient centered outcomes research in Travis County

CHEP Council will work in partnership to identify policy initiatives and provide policy analysis



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