

CHECK-IN REPORT TO COUNTY MANAGER

November 1, 2020 - November 30, 2020

1. Key Accomplishments and Progress from last month

- Mask for Everyone Initiative: Mask Distribution Event on Saturday, October 24th served 610 people and distributed a total of 3,351 masks and distributed a half-ton of food and over 300 gallons of milk.
- RECERT hosted Ramsey County’s first community conversation with Medical Director Dr. Ogawa on October 28, 2020. Topic was about “Covid-19 Testing”. Event took place on Zoom and was also live on Facebook. Forty-seven people attended via ZOOM with 16 people on Facebook Live.
- Continue planning to launch Early Childhood Education initiative with CARES funding to provide early childhood education options to pre-k (0-5 years old) children whose learning has been impacted by COVID-19.
- RHE administrators continued working to identify, reach out to, and create funding opportunities to partner with Black/ADOS and American Indian communities to help address and mitigate the disparities and inequities exacerbated by COVID-19.
- EAC wrapped up and presented their recommendations to the County Manager on October 21st.
- RECERT hosted two Virtual Town Halls on Proposed Bethesda Shelter.
- The Request for Board Action (RBA) team continued working on integrating Racial Equity language and principle into the RBA document and sent to Chief Clerk for feedback.
- Landlord Assistance Program has been launched by FAS “Spend the Money Team” to distribute up to \$8 million by December 30, 2020 to prevent evictions due to COVID-19. The recommendations of the EAC Housing Committee were shared and influenced the design of the program.
- EAC Workforce Committee met with Ann Feamann, HR Deputy Director and Maria Sarabia, DIOD Manager to learn about gaps of getting people with varying abilities hired and discussing the learnings from the State of MN Connect 700.
- Shifted RECERT Focus areas to align with EAC priority areas.

2. Identified Challenges and/or Areas of Needed Support

- Long time and delayed processing for issuing payments to community continues to be an issue.
- Reaching out to communities that have been and continue to be disengaged and marginalized. .
- Determining how to incorporate results-based accountability performance measures that align with EAC priorities.
- Determining the best method to use for contracting delayed the process of issuing contracts to RECERT vendors.

3. Focus Areas of work for upcoming month

Family and Youth

- Continue to explore the opportunity to pilot the Family Coach model:
- RECERT is piloting a COVID-19 Cultural Community Connector that has some aspects of the Family Coach model. Contracts with community partners/and trusted individuals will occur between November 2020-December 2020.
- Meet with the Service Center leads Maggie Dreon and Melinda Donaway to learn more about the current model, what aligns, and to get an update on the vision for Navigator role. Some questions to consider:
 - What is the status of the Navigator?
 - What does this role cover?
 - What does is not cover?
 - Where do the gaps remain?

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- Where is there opportunity?
- Revisit the opportunity to explore a partnership with Ramsey County Early Childhood efforts if the PDG Early Childhood Grant is funded by DHS.
- Touch base with Ling Becker, Director Workforce Solutions about the MFIPP Partners of Equity initiative to see if there is alignment and/or opportunity to potentially partner.

Healthcare

- Meet with John Siqveland, Allison Winters, and the Communications team/leadership again to further discuss the final recommendations:
 - Information flow and opportunities for recommendations 1, 2 and 3.
 - Developing a “debunking COVID myths” communication campaign.
 - More opportunities for the Communications to learn and listen from this committee.
- Meet with Deputy County Manager (DCM) Kathy Hedin, Chris Burns, Meghan Koral, and the Public Health team about the possibility of a Public Health resource hub for recommendation 5.
- Meet with RECERT Co-leads about the learning and progress of the Trusted Messenger Initiatives, the COVID-19 Cultural Community Connector role, and upcoming community conversations to learn more about the perceptions and concerns from this committee.
- Share testing recommendation with Public Health ICS, DCM Hedin and Dr. Ogawa.
- Other topics to be explored with this committee could be the racial equity impacts of vaccinations and mask distribution.

Housing

- Meet with Tina Curry to determine which recommendations the department can move on, which ones need modifications, and what we can do in 2021. EAC Housing met with Director Curry on 11.16.20.
- Meet with the “Spend the Money” team to get updates, as needed. Dr. Suzanne Madison and Thomas Berry are currently the representatives on this team.
- Meet with the Service Center leads Maggie Dreon and Melinda Donaway learn about the connections with the Navigators and FAS staff roles per the recommendation.
- Meet with the Max Holdhusen, Interim Housing Manger and Planning Chief of Housing Stability of Incident Management and Keith Lattimore, Operations Chief of Housing Stability of Incident Management.
- Meet with Heading home Ramsey as an additional step based on 11.16.20 meeting.

Policy and Practices

- Meet the following Subject Matter Experts and/or Ramsey County Leadership:
 - Lidiya Girma, Executive Assistant, and the RHEAs about the current framework and progress Community Engagement and accountability at Ramsey County.
 - Ling Becker, Workforce Solutions Director and WFS CARES team to share how they were able to diversify their contracts, what’s been done, and what’s been learned that addresses recommendation 3.
 - Elizabeth Tolzmann, Policy and Planning Director to learn about the Disparity Study and to heat the Procurement Board Workshop that will lend to a conversation and understanding of the changes, challenges and opportunities with procurement.
 - Jennifer Schuster-Jaeger, Health and Wellness Administration Department and team about community involvement and input on Clients Service Solicitations.

Workforce

- Meet with Ling Becker and Ann Feamann about the Temp Connect program to determine if disability goals could be set in program.
- Meet with IPR-DCM Karen Francois about the work with “Better Futures” and how that is going.

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- EGCI RHEA to talk to EGCI-DCM Johanna Berg and Ted Schoenecker, Public Works Director about the Public Works training program. Considering looking at public labor positions for TARP in Public Works.
- The Public Sector Pathways Coordinator will be hired soon to work on internship and fellow program. Meet with this person once they are hired.

4. Other Key Team Updates

County Manager Comments