

Manhattan Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Task Force

Meeting Summary

Thursday, April 22, 2021

6:00 p.m. – KSU Student Union Ballroom

Welcome Co-Chairs

- Corey and Tanya gave opening comments recognizing the land and highlighting this as our first in-person meeting of the Task Force.
- Reviewed the charge of the Task Force and highlighted the importance of the work of the Task Force.

Review of Open Meetings Protocols

- Dennis provided an overview of the Kansas Open Meeting Act (KOMA) and distributed a handout from the Kansas Attorney General with detail about KOMA.
- Dennis highlighted the three factors that dictate when a meeting is considered an open meeting and discussed how “interactive communication” among the task force members may not be utilized outside the view of the public.

Discuss Manhattan Mercury Coverage of the Task Force and Topics

- Task Force members were encouraged to express their thoughts and feelings related to media coverage (specifically the Manhattan Mercury) of the last Task Force meeting in March, with an emphasis related to healthcare and the needs of diverse populations.
- Comments included appreciation for the news article that provided an overview of the March meeting and the Task Force discussion to concern for how informed the editorial/op-ed writer(s) are about diversity issues.
- Other comments acknowledged that Manhattan has a faith-based primary care facility in town that may not appeal to certain demographics/populations
- There was also an appreciation that the people (the community) was talking about the work of the Task Force and it was getting local media coverage.

Subcommittee Group Meetings

- Task Force members broke out in assigned subcommittees to begin the process of breaking down the diversity, equity and inclusion issues under five primary umbrellas/topics, including *Individual and Family Support, Economic Opportunity, Public Safety, Livability, Health & Wellness*
- Each subcommittee was tasked to develop a vision and description of their topic and then begin the process of identify resources, support, and strategies needed to help generate community-wide recommendations to present at a future Task Force meeting.

Subcommittee Report Out

Each of the five subcommittees reported out on their efforts to narrow the focus and describe their vision and definition for their topic and identify the future components they were going to consider under their topic area. Subcommittee highlights include:

Individual and Family Support

Vision -- Meet the needs of all individuals and families by generating a positive and conducive environment for all residents; therefore, creating feelings of belonging and value within the Manhattan community.

Economic Opportunity

Vision -- Manhattan will be a community that appeals to all ages, backgrounds, and interests through opportunities and activities, where basic needs can be met, everyone can pursue their economic interests and succeed in their endeavors.

Public Safety

Subcommittee members acknowledged how broad of a topic area “public safety” covers. Although the Subcommittee didn’t develop a definition or vision statement yet, members identified public safety deals a lot with crisis. There was a lot of discussion on homelessness, mental health, substance abuse, physical and mental abuse, barriers/resources, and challenges faced by minorities. Members look to collect information on many of these areas locally.

Livability

Subcommittee members were unable to attend this meeting, therefore this vision is forthcoming.

Health & Wellness

Vision -- Provide equitable access to care for all by cultivating culturally relevant care comprised of patient feedback to include facilitating conversations between providers and marginalized groups, and provider collaboration to include highlighting and organizing regional hubs for culturally competent and specialized care, leading to improved mental and physical health outcomes.

Follow up / Action Items

- Determine way for subcommittees to communicate outside of Task Force meetings to keep work moving forward, yet address KOMA requirements.

Task Force Members Present

	04/22/21
Tanya Gonzalez	X
Corey Williamson	X
Dr. Bryan Samuel	NA
Adrian Rodriguez	
Dantia MacDonald	
Dennis Butler	
Jason Smith	
Johnny Taylor	
Jurdene Coleman/Craig Poe	X
Lori Feldkamp	
Lorenza Lockett	X
Pedro Espinoza	X
Paul Shipp	
Ronald Atkinson/ Shawn Martin	
Susan Rensing	X
Teresa Parks	X
Vanessa Salinas	X
Vedant Kulkarni	X
Michael Lambert	X
Jerry Sextro	
Cara Bruce	
Dr. Elfadil Bashir	X
Rachel Corn	X
Victor H. Banda-Medina	
Sheila Ellis Glasper	NA
Keisha Clark (Participant)	X
Audrey Swartz (Participant)	X
Vibhavari Jani (Participant)	
Claudia Diaz (Participant)	X
Dr. Melissa Rosso (Participant)	X
Dr. Be Stoney (Participant)	
City Staff Liaisons	
Ron Fehr	X
Dennis Marstall	X
Kristen Dolf	X