

Inclusive and just committee notes

Meeting: 3/1/2022

Members present:

- Joel Torres, Chair
- Barb Goun
- Christine Schell
- Elyse Pivnic
- Jesselly de la Cruz
- Kety Rosario
- Maya Wahrman
- Melanie McDermott

We are charged with creating action plans moving forward: just systems policies, etc.

Three main goals for our subcommittee:

- a. Make health and health equity a priority statewide and in local policy
- b. Ensure that decision-makers are informed of the health issues and consequences of various policy options
- c. Build decision-support tools, guidance training, and other support mechanisms

Is this SMART type goals, for local, state, etc? Or a larger manifesto?

The focus will be limited to local health issues? Our global world is health and health equity, that's our topic.

Members who developed phase 1 are listed on the website.

Some important aspects of our committee:

- Racism as a public health crisis, as declared by Gov. Phil Murphy
- Issues of access to translation and interpretation for all immigrant communities
- Broader view on environmental justice
- Access to housing
- Climate justice

The action steps have to be appropriate to the entity that is taking action, so that would be a multilayered thing.

There is going to be a public comment period on the action plan.

Specifically, what is defined as community? Environment, infrastructure (i.e. lead issues), food deserts, housing, school-to-prison pipeline. So what do we define under the umbrella of community, which will define our specific goals and equity.

Access to quality health care, safe pathways for kids to go to school. We are going to come up with action plans that will guide policymakers and stakeholders who make decisions.

Community lens: community is loosely equivalent to local government, that might help us focus what the actions will be.

Procedural justice: whose voices are at the table? Maybe we come up with a series of steps that all policies must follow these ways to be inclusive and just in developing actions. Our audience is the decision makers, those who can make the changes and decisions.

Can we dialogue with the HNJ steering committee to understand the logic behind these phases?

We need to listen to people. Data informs your decisions but it does not drive it because values drive decisions. The voice of the people needs to be reintroduced into a,b,c (see above).

It is very difficult to hold all of NJ in all of these conversations and represent everyone, it is hard to get everyone around the same table.

We will follow up with the action team and share that information. We should all keep sharing that information. How can we keep this streamlined with the goals for HNJ2030?

Meeting schedules – we have until May to work on this. Try to create standing meetings every two weeks. 4-5pm is not the ideal time though. We will choose a more convenient time soon via doodle poll for a standing meeting.