



## **Commission on Inclusion**

### **Meeting (Conference Call)**

**Wednesday, June 19, 2019**

**10:00 – 10:30 AM**

**Present:** Emily Turner, Karon Hardy, Betty Marrow-Taylor, Barbara Rimer, Secretary Sanders, Alyssa (intern), Lydia Lavelle, Paula Kohut, Fred Yates, Pat Martinez, Cecelia Surrat, Andrew Spainhour, Naveed Aziz, Mickayla McCann (intern)

#### **Welcome**

Secretary Sanders

#### **Updates**

Betty Marrow-Taylor

Provided updates on the following issues, along with Secretary Sanders.

- **Medicaid Expansion:** Currently there is no funding or language whatsoever in the GA budget for the expansion of Medicaid. Governor Cooper has taken a stand for the residents of NC and included funding in his budget to close the gap. There is a huge need amongst our residents, as is underscored by the Status of Women Health & Wellbeing.
- **State Health Insurance Plan Transgender Coverage:** There has been no movement on this issue. No one was able to attend the last meeting, in part because of the late notice. Commissioners will continue to be notified about both meetings and important changes.
- **Diversity in Disaster (Preparedness, Responsiveness and Recovery):** There will be an update at the August meeting of this year on the follow-up to the Commission's recommendations.
- **Census 2020:** NC Complete Count Commission met last week in Pitt County. They are currently working on forming partnerships and sponsorships for marketing, branding, and outreach. The goal is to have at least one Complete Count committee in each county and are currently at 83. They want to maintain or improve the 76% participation rate and to improve the hard-to-reach populations. This goal will be supported by the recommendations provided by the commission at the last meeting in Morganton. Commissioners were asked to notify the Secretary of potential events and spaces for outreach on the census. The US Census is having trouble filling census positions. Commissioners were asked to share the opportunity with their networks, with a particular focus on the importance of having enumerators from hard-to-reach populations in order to address trust issues and participation. P. Martinez will be working for census. Orange County has formed a committee and will be working monthly and will coordinate a public awareness campaign.

- Status of Women in NC Report (Health & Wellbeing): Health & Wellbeing report will be available online soon, and a link will be shared with the Commission. The data is alarming regarding women's health in the state. There are a lot of disparities with respect to race, particularly for African-American and Latina women. In addition, the infant mortality rate is very concerning and little progress has been made. There are also racial disparities in that arena as well. The Department of Health & Human Services is taking the lead on the Early Child Action plan which intersects with this concern. Next week Secretary Cohen will be in Asheville and Secretary Sanders will be in Wilmington to present this data, bring attention to this issue, and listen to concerns. P. Martinez requested specific action points to help in advocacy. Specific policy recommendations are included and will be shared with commissioners. B. Rimer pointed out that North Carolina, which was previously a leader in this space is falling behind to an extraordinary extent. The problem is also more complex than health care provision and requires collaboration to address a number of social determinants. P. Martinez raised the possibility of a letter on this issue or other action, potentially a visit to the legislature. This discussion will be continued at the August meeting.

➤ Action Items: *Dr. Aziz will draft a letter on this issue for the Commission to review. Secretary Sanders will check with the legislative liaison to see about the potential of the meeting with the chairs.*

- Collaboration with Environmental Justice and Equity Council: There is a meeting set for June 28 between Secretary Sanders and the EJEC to discuss potential partnership. Betty will also attend. Commissioners are invited to attend. E. Turner and P. Martinez will attend.
- LGBTQ Pride Month: Gov. Cooper issued a proclamation. The DOA will host a reception as well as some other agencies. DHHS held a roundtable to discuss LGBTQ health issues. On June 25, DOA will be hosting their reception and is seeking panelists to discuss inclusion. *L. Lavelle will attend to present.* In the DOA newsletter, this month would like to include an article by a commissioner. *P. Kohut will follow up about the article.*
- Miscellaneous:
  - An Executive Order has been issued for pregnancy and maternal wellness. Tomorrow Dept. of Administration (DOA) is opening its first lactation room in the Administration Building. DOA is the first agency to meet this mandate and it is open for all state employees. Plans underway to determine where to open the next one.
  - An Executive Order providing paid parental leave was also issued and goes into effect in September for the Executive Branch.
  - Updates regarding commission recommendations as to policy will be provided at the next in-person meeting.
  - Council of Women would like to work with this Commission on the challenges they face serving Trans youth.
  - A new reimbursement form will be shared with the Commissioners.

## Announcements

- Next Commission meeting is Wednesday, August 21, Charlotte, NC; 10:00 am - 2:30 pm. (*Specific details forthcoming*) Thanks Pat Martinez for hosting.

**Meeting Adjourned:** Secretary Sanders exhorted the commissioners to remain committed to the goals of the group and to take action to make sure that all people in our communities are able to access the health care they deserve.