



CUYAHOGA COUNTY CITIZENS' ADVISORY COUNCIL ON EQUITY

Monday, March 27, 2023

1:30 PM – 3:30 PM

I. Call to Order

Chair Taylor called the meeting to order at 1:41 PM.

II. Roll Call

A quorum was present.

In Attendance- Eddie Taylor, Annette Blackwell, Stephen Caviness, Rev. Kenneth Chalker, Habeebah Grimes, Dr. Heidi Gullett, Randell McShepard, Marsha Mockabee, Dr. Charles Modlin, LeVine Ross, Glen Shumate and Yanela Sims.

Excused Absence- Jenice Contreras, Colleen Cotter, and Sheila Wright.

Clerk Byrd acknowledged India Pierce-Lee's resignation from the Citizens' Advisory Council on Equity (CACE) and publicly thanked her for her work as Criminal Justice Subcommittee Chair. The CACE also wished Ms. Pierce-Lee the best of luck in her new role as Executive Vice President and Chief Strategy Officer for Cuyahoga Community College.

Chair Taylor welcomed Cuyahoga County Councilwoman Yvonne Conwell to the meeting.

III. Moment of Silence and Reflection

Clerk Byrd spoke briefly about the unprecedented, unimaginable, and devastating events at the national, local and sometimes personal levels. She outlined the importance of facing challenges with purposefulness, courage and determination. Her comments were followed by a moment of silent reflection.



IV. Public Comment

There were no public comments submitted via email to equity@cuyahogacounty.us since the November 2022 meeting.

During the meeting, there was one public comment provided orally from a woman named Lou. Lou introduced herself as a community member. She suggested the vacant membership seats on the CACE be filled by a working person and not leaders of organizations. She believes this would achieve true membership equity.

Member Sims agreed with community member Lou. She reiterated the importance of providing CACE membership opportunities to people who have lived experiences.

Member Mockabee agreed with Member Sims.

Councilwoman Conwell stated when CACE was created, the intent was to appoint members who are leaders over large organizations to expand the reach and access to information to the community. She furthered she is in support of others joining CACE.

Member Modlin shared some people may not have the flexibility to participate with CACE absent a letter or notice to provide their employers.

Chair Taylor cautioned CACE to be mindful of not making the inclusion of these recommendations difficult to implement.

V. Message from County Executive

Executive Ronayne thanked everyone for attending. He began by sharing his beliefs in the work of the CACE. Executive Ronayne repeated a quote from Former City of Cleveland Mayor Louis Stokes, who said “change comes in inches in this town”. Executive Ronayne believes we have moved too slow in our efforts to see progress in the areas of race, justice, and economic opportunity and trust must be built.

Executive Ronayne shared he is dedicated to Cuyahoga County. He has lived and served this community since he attended graduate school at Cleveland State



University. He was previously employed with the Cuyahoga County Planning Commission and University Circle.

During the campaign for County Executive, he learned of community priorities including health, healthcare, and racism as a public health crisis.

Executive Ronayne believes every aspect of justice is an indicator of inequity. He shared in the first 90 days, his administration started a Department of Housing lead by Director Sarah Parks Jackson and a Transportation Department lead by Senior Advisor for Transportation Annie Pease.

Executive Ronayne is focused on the Department of Economic Development and the Department of Workforce Development and wants to partner with CACE to ensure work is being done correctly.

Executive Ronayne opined there needs to be a significant improvement in customer navigation within County government. He believes we need to better equip ourselves to help people who are experiencing serious trauma, and County government should lead by example.

In closing, Executive Ronayne is interested in the direction of CACE.

VI. Update / Message from Chair

Each CACE member present at the meeting introduced his/herself.

Marsha Mockabee (Economic opportunity Subcommittee)

President and CEO of the Urban League of Greater Cleveland.

In addition, Member Mockabee co-chairs the City of Cleveland's work on "racism as a public health crisis".

Rev. Kenneth Chalker (Criminal Justice Subcommittee)

Retired Pastor of the University Circle United Methodist Church



Glen Shumate (Communications Subcommittee/Equitable Quality of Life Subcommittee)

Executive Vice President of the Construction Employers Association

Randell McShepard (Chair- Equitable Quality of Life Subcommittee)

RPM International, Inc.

Mayor Annette Blackwell (Equitable Quality of Life Subcommittee)

City of Maple Heights Mayor

Habeebah Grimes (Chair- Communications Subcommittee/ Economic Opportunity Subcommittee)

CEO of the Positive Education Program

Eddie Taylor (Chair of the CACE/ Health and Healthcare Subcommittee))

CEO of Taylor Oswald

Dr. Heidi Gullett (Chair- Health and Healthcare Subcommittee)

Family and Public Health Physician

Stephen Caviness (Chair- Economic Opportunity Subcommittee)

Director of Project Management for Team NEO

LeVine Ross (Communications Subcommittee/ Health and Healthcare Subcommittee)

County Council Senior HHS Policy Advisor

Yanela Sims (Economic Opportunity Subcommittee)

SEIU Local 1 Representative

Dr. Charles Modlin (Health and Healthcare Subcommittee)

Metrohealth Hospital Surgeon

Chair Taylor thanked CACE County Liaison Clerk Byrd and her team for their work supporting CACE.



Clerk Byrd thanked each member of her team who assists her with CACE including Civil Manager Monica Berry, Special Assistant La'Tia Adams and her former Chief of Staff Laura Black.

VII. New Business

a. Approval of the Minutes

The meeting minutes for the November 4, 2022 meeting were distributed on November 18, 2022 for review. A motion was made by Member Blackwell and seconded by Subcommittee Chair McShepard to approve the previously distributed minutes.

There was no discussion. The motion carried without opposition and the minutes were approved.

b. Questions for Executive Ronayne

Member Modlin asked Executive Ronayne if he plans to address homelessness.

Executive Ronayne responded yes. He detailed the County's recently launched a new strategic plan, which includes working to reduce the homeless population by 25% over the next five years. The County and the City will partner on this project. The County wants to focus on ways to help people establish permanent housing and solidify employment for those who are eligible.

Member Blackwell shared economic development and opportunities must include viability and revenue retention to make important services available. These areas directly affect the quality of life, criminal justice, and health and healthcare. She believes these needs to be a revenue replacement. She detailed the challenges occurring because of what is happening in Columbus. Additionally, Member Blackwell believes cities are businesses and continued resources are necessary for sustainability and growth.



Executive Ronayne commended Member Blackwell for her work on the fiscal turnaround as Mayor in the City of Maple Heights.

Member Mockabee asked Executive Ronayne if it was his intent for CACE to continue focusing on internal County policies and practices? She also asked if there was any consideration for CACE to begin looking at external systems that interact with the County?

Executive Ronayne responded by saying yes to review of internal and external systems. He added the County has to “up their game” in certain areas such as contracting. However, Executive Ronayne believes it would be a mistake to not use the strength of CACE to look for external opportunities for improvements. He stated the county is not always as strong as it could be and we need to own that.

Subcommittee Chair McShepard asked Executive Ronayne to speak with employers regarding the possible opening of a Polaris Center on the Eastside.

Executive Ronayne shared he would like to see the employer resources division of economic development revitalized. He also agreed with Subcommittee Chair McShepard regarding the value in County leaders listening to the needs of employers. He also agreed the County could do better with the placement of businesses in some eastern communities.

Subcommittee Chair Caviness shared the importance of keeping employers at the table to participate in these discussions and creating an environment where they stay engaged.

Executive Ronayne shared examples of how his administration is looking at local models of measurable outcomes resulting in positive impact.

Member Shumate asked Executive Ronayne about the approval of County appointments and policies. Member Shumate also asked how organizations can understand the mission and edict of our County government? He believes the



County likely has resources that could be helpful to the community; but those resources should be shared in an effort to benefit other communities.

Executive Ronayne said he wants to make sure the application process for board and council membership remains transparent.

Councilwoman Conwell shared the Cuyahoga County Council Chairpersons would love to hear the CACE Subcommittees current status and forecasted future. She welcomed CACE members to present before the appropriate subcommittee.

Member Chalker shared how helpful it would be to learn what happens to the recommendations coming from CACE. He shared systematic change requires continued communication regarding the progress.

c. Presentation- City of Cleveland Community Police Commission (CPC)

Ms. Shalenah Williams is the Community Engagement and Project Manager for the City of Cleveland Community Police Commission (CPC).

Ms. Williams was joined by 5 CPC Executive Committee members including CPC Commissioner Jane Ridgeway, Board Chair of the ADAMHS Board of Cuyahoga County and Hunger network president Rabbi Ben Gohlstin, President and Founder of Black Lives Matter Cleveland Latoya Goldsby, owner of Project List Mental Health Services Latoya Logan and CPC Executive Director Jason Goodrick.

Ms. Williams led a presentation regarding recent community engagement events hosted by the CPC. The event series is titled “The Conversation Project: The Impact of Police Violence on the Mental Health of the Black Community”, and is a collaborative effort among several partnering community organizations and governmental agencies to bring awareness of the harm done to black, brown and marginalized communities by oppressive systems creating disparate conditions and inequitable environments. The goal of the series is to illuminate



the impact of over policing as it relates to mental health. The CPC believes we must deal with trauma and be willing to reach people wherever they are. CPC hopes to continue this work to change the narrative and the culture.

The first event in the Conversation Project series was held on March 23rd (for women). There are also events scheduled for April 29th (for men, sponsored by Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. Delta Alpha Lambda Chapter), May 20th (for youth, sponsored by Cuyahoga Community College), June (for the LGBTQIA community), and July (collective community-wide). The CPC invites the CACE to attend the events.

At the conclusion of the presentation, Ms. Williams requested the support of CACE as they pursue ongoing efforts to continue these conversations.

Councilwoman Conwell thanked the CACE for allowing the CPC to present. She shared her thoughts about the value of their work and the relatability to the work of CACE. Councilwoman Conwell added the support CACE can give to organizations may not always be monetary, but CACE could help circulate valuable information that will undoubtedly benefit everyone in the community.

The CACE thanked the CPC members for their presentation.

d. Subcommittee Chair Reports

i. Health and Healthcare Subcommittee

Subcommittee Chair Gullett shared an overview of the work of the Community Health Assessment 3 year plan. The most recent assessment was completed at the end of 2022. The assessment revealed the great impact of racial trauma and healing. Once you eliminate racial trauma and healing you begin to dismantle the systems causing embedded racism.



e. Update from the Department of Human Resources

Cuyahoga County Human Resources Manager Kimberley Coleman presented on behalf of Interim Chief Marshall. The Internal Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Human Resource Committee began its work in 2022. They distribute a bi-monthly newsletter including DEI initiatives. They held a panel discussion titled “Can we talk”. They focused on topics centered around diversity, equity and inclusion. The first discussion was titled “Why Black History Month Matters” and included panelist County Executive Ronayne, Council President Jones and Clerk Byrd.

f. Subcommittee Chair Meeting Update and Discussion

Earlier this year, the CACE subcommittee chairs met to discuss the direction of CACE for 2023.

During the discussion, the subcommittee chairs agreed to meet quarterly.

The intent is to schedule meetings with Executive Ronayne and with RAPC and the 5 Pillars.

Further discussion will occur regarding the best use of CACE funds.

Councilwoman Conwell asked CACE to share their asks with County Council. Chair Taylor agreed.

g. CACE Leadership Appeal

Chair Taylor appealed to the members of CACE requesting if anyone wanted to transition into a leadership role to please contact he or Clerk Byrd.

There are currently 2 vacant seats on the CACE Council.



Chair Taylor reminded everyone CACE members serve in staggered terms.

Subcommittee Chair McShepard suggested CACE consider the use of Community Advisory Committees to support the work of each subcommittee.

h. GARE Update

As a reminder, Cuyahoga County is a member of the Government Alliance on Race and Equity (GARE). Clerk Byrd or her team attends the monthly meetings and she reports out either verbally or in an email about discussions held during these meetings.

GARE did not hold a Monthly Membership meeting in December and beginning 2023, GARE restructured their meetings and eliminated the Monthly Membership meetings. Therefore, there are no GARE monthly meeting updates to report.

Instead, on April 12, 2023 there will be a “GARE Conversations” meeting and as always, Clerk Byrd will provide an update during the next CACE meeting.

i. Adjournment

The CACE meeting adjourned at 3:33 pm.