Equity Council Agenda

Zoom Meeting Time: October 28, 2020 3:30 - 4:30 PM

Welcomes & Introductions

- Executive Office of Health and Human Services Secretary Womazetta Jones welcomed the Council members

Housing Accessibility During COVID-19 | Kim Ahern (Deputy Legal Counsel, Office of Governor Gina Raimondo), Michael Tondra (Chief, Office of Housing and Community Development), Kyle Bennett (Director of Policy and Research, United Way of RI)

- The State is partnering with local non-profits including HousingWorksRI, the United Way of Rhode Island, and Crossroads to push forward eviction aversion initiatives such as Housing Helps RI. For more information, visit: https://health.ri.gov/covid/homeownersandrenters/
- The United Way of RI has added nine (9) new staff members in order to expedite the processing of applications for the Safe Harbor housing assistance program

Updates from the Last Meeting

- The Equity Council will meet on a biweekly basis starting on November 4th, 2020. State Staff will be sending all Council members an invitation to a group discussion platform for communication in between meetings.

Community Feedback: What are you hearing from the community? What should the State know?

- Members were concerned about the potential mistrust of a COVID-19 vaccination from community members of color due to the historical precedent of medical abuse in these communities as well as widespread misinformation

Next Steps

- State Staff will work on setting up a brainstorming session with Equity Council members who are part of the COVID-19 Vaccine Subcommittee. For more information, visit: https://health.ri.gov/covid/vaccine/

Close

- Closing remarks given by Secretary Womazetta Jones