



Equity Council Agenda

Zoom Meeting Time: October 14, 2020 3:30 - 4:30 PM

Welcomes & Introductions

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

Climate Equity in Rhode Island | Director Janet Coit, Department of Environmental Management (DEM)

- DEM wants to connect with communities of color and high-density areas so they can be involved in DEM programs and climate equity planning. More information can be found here: <http://www.dem.ri.gov/>

Health Equity Zones (HEZs) and High-Density Communities (HDC) during COVID-19 | Michelle Wilson, Julian Drix, and Mia Patriarca, Rhode Island Department of Health

- HDCs have been hardest hit by pandemic as a result of ongoing structural racism. The HDC team is finding ways to respond and engage in impact reduction strategies as part of its COVID-19 response.
- HEZs have been key partners in distributing materials and information in the physical communities that have been most impacted by the pandemic. More information on HEZs: <https://bit.ly/3j3icoP>

Updates from the Last Meeting

- State staff provided information on how public and private higher education institutions will be operating after Thanksgiving break (in-person, remote, etc.)

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

- Per previous feedback, the Equity Council will be meeting biweekly starting in November. It will return to weekly meetings if needed

Next Steps

- State staff will report back about DEM internship and job opportunities available for youth to be shared with communities of color and high-density communities

Close

- Closing remarks given by Secretary Womazetta Jones

