

Washtenaw Equity Partnership Meeting Minutes

February 22, 2022 – 4-6PM

Attendees include WEP members and Subcommittee members

- Co-chair welcomed the group and ran through the evening's agenda.
- Vera staff introduced Vera team presenting.
- Presentation by Vera's Motion for Justice Team
 - Presentation covered creating brave spaces, techniques for hard conversations, shared definitions, and data and science aspects of the work
 - Brave space – encourages dialogue; recognizing difference and holding each person accountable to do the work of sharing experiences and coming to new understandings. While the expectation is that members will experience discomfort, the practice of maintaining a growth mindset is prioritized.
 - Grounding definitions
 - Systemic vs systematic
 - Systemic racism – prejudice plus power
 - Where systematic applies to procedure, systemic racism applies to the system itself
 - Public health impacts
 - Slides will be shared with attendees

Subcommittee members asked to leave, WEP members asked to stay to conduct WEP business.

- Quorum was not met, 9 WEP members present.
- 9 members voted to approve past meeting minutes. Vera team will reach out to members who did not attend individually to vote on minutes.
- 9 members voted to approve updated research priorities. Vera team will reach out to members who did not attend individually to vote on priorities.
- Vera staff shared about upcoming optional office hour for members.
- Member asked about transparency and when recent membership changes will be addressed with the broader WEP group.

Subcommittee Co-chairs asked to stay on for a check in, all other WEP members dismissed.

- Court process
 - Two meetings have occurred. Members are engaged and there is willingness to discuss inequities in the court process.
- Prevention and Front End
 - Two meetings have occurred. During the most recent meeting, research questions were discussed. Members were interested in intersectionality between racial disparities and other areas such as disabilities, socioeconomic status, etc. Group will need to find a balance between scope and length of this project.
- Data
 - Two meetings have occurred. Subcommittee is looking at improving data collection, analysis, data integration and transparency. The group might breakout into four

separate working groups to focus on each area simultaneously. The group is also creating a spreadsheet that captures the entities that collect criminal legal system data, what databases they use and who is responsible for maintaining them.

- Youth Justice and Schools
 - One meeting has occurred. The subcommittee has lost two county members. The next meeting will focus on what is happening in Washtenaw County in this space.
- Post-Sentencing and Reentry
 - One meeting has occurred. The next meeting will take place on March 11.
- Behavioral Health
 - No subcommittee co-chairs present. This subcommittee currently only has one co-chair.