



**Equity Committee**  
October 13, 2020  
1:30 – 3:00 PM  
GoToMeeting

**Attendees:** Diane Halvorson, Tammy Biery, Barb Chaffee, Nicole Swanson, Kristin Yeager, Deb Bahr-Helgen, Anisa Hajimumin, Kate Probert, Dee Torgerson, Beth Peterson, Ling Becker, Carrie Bendix, Elena Foshay

### **Committee Purpose Statement and Work Plan Discussion**

- The group agreed to continue holding meetings that are 1.5 hours in length.
- Task Groups will be created. Each Group will focus on a different topic. The Groups will be responsible for setting their own work plan and goals. The three initial Task Groups will be:
  - Employer Engagement Efforts
  - Workforce System Accessibility
  - Policy Recommendations to DEED and Others
- Tammy Biery shared a draft purpose statement for the committee: “To better our state and local communities by addressing racial disparities in employment and workforce system accessibility. This group will promote best practices around equity and inclusion, quantify issues and create initiatives to drive change.” Comments on this statement should be sent to [baccettura@mncounties.org](mailto:baccettura@mncounties.org).
- Full meetings of the Equity Committee will include a speaker, a data-driven presentation, and a report from each Task Group.
  - NEXT STEPS: A follow-up email will be sent out to gather the committee members’ first and second choices for Task Group participation. Co-chairs Ling Becker and Tammy Biery will formulate each group.

### **Other Discussion**

- The committee discussed setting a long-term goal for MAWB to embed equity in all committees and work plans.
- It was suggested that the January Operations Committee meeting include time for each local area to present one slide about successes and ongoing issues with equity in their local area.
  - NEXT STEPS: Ling Becker will follow up with Nicole Swanson on this topic.

### **Guest Speaker**

- The committee heard a presentation by Anisa Hajimumin, Assistant Commissioner for Immigrant and Refugee Affairs. Anisa shared stories from her prior personal experiences, career path, and goals at DEED.

### **Digital Equity Data and Resources**

- Ling Becker shared data about digital equity in Ramsey County.
- Discussion ensued about digital literacy in Minnesota. Elena Foshay suggested that there could be a DEED-run digital literacy initiative that would take a statewide focus.
- Task Groups may discuss digital equity as a part of their conversations.