**Coalition to End Homelessness Race and Equity Committee**

**August 12, 2021**

Participants

* Rosemary Powers
* Rob Huff
* Stacey Soltoff
* Sherilla Bivens
* Cynthia Stewart
* Michelle

Observations about the Coalition

The objective for this meeting was to discuss observations we each had from doing the assignment from last week, looking at the Coalition web page and data on it and sharing points of interest relative to race and equity. Most of the group had not understood the assignment and did not do it. The meeting was therefore abbreviated and this topic will resume next week.

Points discussed:

* Pictures are not necessarily representative of who people are
* Pictures on the Coalition videos are often blank or few because the screen can only show a few at a time.
* Between 150 and 170 people typically register in advance for the Coalition meetings, though attendance is typically between 60 and 80.
* The chat from each meeting is saved and available on the web site. It could be used to extract a variety of useful resources.
* The transcript is also posted.
* It would be interesting to note who speaks most frequently, identify the reasons for that, and consider how to create more “open” space for others

Assignment for next week: Look at anything the coalition publishes on its web page and note what is of interest; observe ourselves and learn from that. Who speaks, what kind of open spaces there are, other resources we could use.

Moving toward goals for this committee

Rosemary identified several possible goals that could be considered in future discussions. They could also be prioritized by polling the Coalition.

* Educational principle – Provide an opportunity for Coalition members to continue their own education: Heighten our awareness of lived experience, look at our history that can lead to some of the aggressions we don’t intend
* Understanding the disproportionality among people experiencing homelessness
* Provide a way to examine our own organizations for accountability
* Examine how we manifest representation and use our processes and structures to ensure there is equity

When we do have a clear goal, we also need to take action, not just talk about it.

Also, Rosemary suggested we discuss our own experiences dealing with race and equity, talk honestly about how these experiences have helped us to move in our consciousness how to be in the world in a different way. We could collect stories and examples.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be Thursday, August 19, 3:00 pm. (see Assignment above)