Race and Equity Committee

Notes from Sept 2 meeting 3-4 pm

Present: Stacey Soltoff, Sherrilla Bivens, Rosemary Powers

Brief Summary of meeting:

1.We discussed a potential survey of Coalition participants, noting that we will need a clear purpose for the use of such data beyond demographics. Gaining knowledge about participants’ experiences with diversity and homelessness as well as activities related to equity should help us plan initiatives, but we want to have more of us present to explore the types of questions we might ask. *We encourage all to reflect on past assessments related to equity we have found useful as individuals or in other groups.*

2.We also identified a couple groups we might invite to make a brief description at the Friday Coalition meeting of their work related to homelessness—The Ministerial Alliance’s Homeless Intervention Program, and the not-for-profit group Building Changes. *Sherrilla agreed to follow up with both of these groups, and to connect with Theresa Power-Drutis for scheduling if there is interest in a brief presentation of these programs at a Coalition meeting.*

3.Bucoda Warren, Strategic Initiatives Coordinator for the City of Tacoma, joined us to discuss the potential of the Tacoma Equity Index for understanding equity issues related to homelessness. We discussed possible uses to overlay geographic patterns for encampments (noting confidentiality issues for some sites), what we might gain from comparing tree canopy info with locations of hottest temperatures during the summer heat dome event, and how we might connect other geographic, economic opportunity, and transportation indicators to the goal of ending homelessness. Bucoda noted that the index will be formally revised in 2022. He is willing to return to our group in future or present the potential of the equity index to the larger group if that would be useful.

**Next meeting**:

We agreed to meet next on the 3rd Thursday of this month—Sept. 16 from 3-4 pm. We propose that the group meet twice a month on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays at the 3-4 pm time, and can decide this at the Sept 16 meeting.

Agenda will be sent prior to meeting, but will include continued discussion of survey possibilities, and identifying other possible groups to invite to present to Friday Coalition.

Note: If you have ideas for agenda, please send to Monique Brown at Mbrown@fobhope.org and Rosemary Powers at rpowers@eou.edu .

Notes by Rosemary Powers