

City of Norwich Health Equity Committee
Monday, February 10, 2025 Hybrid Meeting
Room 319, Norwich City Hall, 100 Broadway, Norwich, CT

1. **Call to Order.** The Meeting called to order at 2:32 PM by Chairman Joseph Zuzel.
2. **Attendance.** The following committee members were present in person and online: Chairman Joseph Zuzel, Patrick McCormack, Melissa Meyers, Kate Milde, Chief Patrick Daley, Robert Scalise, Cathleen Special, Dr. Kyle McClaine

The following committee members were absent: John Salomone, Jennifer Granger, Shiela Hayes, Dr. Alexander Mbewe, Dr. Mohammed Qureshi, Dr. Ramindra Walia, Laura Dietrich.

3. **Citizens' Comments.** None.
4. **Minutes of the January 13, 2025 Regular Meeting.** Melissa Meyers made a motion to approve the Minutes of the January 13, 2025 Regular Meeting. Kate Milde seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

5. **Updates**

- a. Chair Updates.

Committee Chair Zuzel reported that he and Kate Milde have started working on a draft plan based on the information received and invited others to join them. The results of the surveys, census and other information gathered from several sources, and, as a structure model, the health equity plan from North Carolina, were fed into a language learning model to synthesize the data. It is still in rough draft, but several goals were identified in the summary: key health and equity issues facing Norwich, analyze disparities in health care access, economic opportunity in public services, strategic recommendations and innovative goals to improve equity outcomes, and provide data-driven solutions to ensure more inclusive health care for all Norwich residents.

Discussion took place on the identified goals, particularly providing data-driven solutions. It was suggested that perhaps providing framework to the City Council rather than providing "data-driven solutions" would be more appropriate for the Committee's efforts. Otherwise, the other three goals seemed in line with the Committee's goals.

The report identified categories along with key findings, challenges, and recommendations. Chair Zuzel provided examples of each. After discussion, it was decided that the Committee would use this structure but would incorporate current efforts of each representing agency rather than "recommendations."

The Chair also shared several categories identified in the document as well as recommendations under each topic. Not every category was relevant to the Committee's work, and it was decided that our categories should be based on the 13 points in the order that established the Committee. We could share data and practices for each point, even providing examples of current practices of specific departments or agencies. If anyone does not want to be named in the document, they can contact the Chair directly. He will take no email as an indication that the department or agency is agreeable to being named in the document.

6. **Guest Speaker.** None.
7. **Subcommittee Reports.** No reports.
8. **Other Business.** No other business was discussed.
9. **Adjournment.** Cathleen Special made a motion, seconded by Dr. Qureshi, to adjourn the meeting at 2:59 PM. Unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Cathleen Special