

CHECK-IN REPORT TO COUNTY MANAGER

September 2020- October 2020

1. Key Accomplishments and Progress from last month

- RECERT community (Trusted Messengers and Media & Messaging) partnerships/contracts ended on 9/30. Reflections session with the community partners were held on 10/2 and an evaluation is underway.
- RECERT staff will participate in an internal reflection session about Phase I of the trusted messenger and media messaging initiative.
- RHE administrators are working with a few Equity Action Circle (EAC) members to identify, reach out to, and create funding opportunities to partner with ADOS and American Indian communities to help address and mitigate the disparities and inequities exacerbated by COVID-19.
- Distributed 700 masks to over 170 residents at Mask Distribution event on Aug 29th. With over 200 mailed out to residents after the event.
- To date provided over 20,000 to over 70 BIPOC businesses in Ramsey County.
- EAC is wrapping up its various committees' recommendations to be reviewed by the County Manager on October 21st.
- Planning for another mask distribution event is underway with October 24th (tentatively) working to confirm the location. In addition to offering 3 October pick-up dates/options for residents
- RECERT hosted a Disaster Preparedness townhall with Emergency Management.
- Dr. Ogawa attended an EAC meeting where she answered members' questions related to COVID-19 testing. RECERT is partnering with Public Health to host "A Public Health Hour with Dr. Ogawa" in October, November and December with community.

2. Identified Challenges and/or Areas of Needed Support

- Long time and delayed processing for issuing payments to community.
- Reaching out to communities that have been and continue to be disengaged and marginalized.
- Working with Finance and Procurement to determine the best mechanism to get the remaining \$1.5M RECERT CARES funds out to community through grant administrators for Trusted Messengers, Community Conversations, and Lay Health Advisors by partnering with multiple culturally and linguistically appropriate community agencies.

3. Focus Areas of work for upcoming month

Communication

- Find innovative ways to reach out to marginalized communities.
- We will be hosting the Election Services Townhall on October 20.
- Work with county leadership to strategize and organize community engagement events regarding the Bethesda Hospital site.

Programs

- We continue to work with FAS on spending of CARES rental assistance/EA/EGA.
- We are seeking to host another "Mask for Everyone" Distribution event in October, pending location confirmation.
- Working with EAC committees to make the linkages to departments as they develop their recommendations.

Data

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- Developed CARES evaluation plans.
- Reviewing the RECERT evaluations and hosted reflection sessions with partners and staff.

Community

- RECERT funding distribution (CARES).
- EAC priority area recommendations to be sent to County Manager on October 16th.
- Hosting monthly community conversations with Medical Director, Dr. Lynne Ogawa starting October 28. 1st topic is “COVID Testing.”
- Continued conversation by EAC and RECERT about the 1415 Building.

4. Other Key Team Updates

- Mee Cheng started as interim Racial and Health Equity Administrator supporting EGCI, Strategic Team, and RECERT
- RECERT and HWST Race Equity Core Team staff continues to work on integrating racial equity and community engagement into the RBA.
- Safety and Justice, IPR, EGCI and HWST RECEATs are meeting. Some are still getting grounded and/or identifying key priorities and capacity for 2021.
- HWST Racial Equity Core Team continues to work on finding innovative ways to engage and include community in figuring out what Ramsey County’s HWST should prioritize for racial equity in 2021-2022
- RECERT hosted a Rule 20 town hall with Social Services. One for community and one for staff. Individual interviews will be done with individuals impacted by Rule 20.

County Manager Comments