



HB 2100 Task Force on Homelessness & Racial Disparities | MEETING SUMMARY

Meeting date | time July 20, 2022 | **5:02-6:36pm** | **Meeting location** Virtual

Facilitator	Kenisha Bryant & Michael Thomas	Task Force Members in Attendance: Jessica Pratt, Paula Hall, Jennifer Parrish Taylor, Marisa Espinoza, Rowan Schwartz (proxy for Vanessa Timmons), Nicole Witham, Sen. Dick Anderson, Katrina Holland, Jill Smith <i>Additional attendees included members of the public.</i>
Note Taker + Timekeeper	Mary Frances Kenion	

AGENDA TOPICS

Agenda topic: **Agenda Overview** |

Facilitators shared the agenda overview which included:

- Welcome/Introductions
- So Why Are We Here?
- Perspective
- Show Me the Data
- Eliminating Harmful Practices
- Emerging Best Practices

Agenda topic: **Presentation** |

Facilitators provided an in-depth presentation on the foundations of racial equity which a focus on Oregon-specific history. Please view recording for detailed presentation. Links to videos are included below:

A Conversation with Native Americans on Race: <https://youtu.be/siMal6QVbIE>

Black Exclusion Laws and Oregon's Racist History: <https://youtu.be/gEKhpkJ7yP8>

Agenda topic: **Post-Presentation Dialogue** |

Facilitators asked Task Force members to share reactions and feelings following the presentation. A summary of Task Force responses representing a range of feedback including:

- Knew overarching history, but didn't know the detail
- Appreciated the cross-sector analysis (e.g., child welfare system, carceral systems, health, etc.) – helpful to see information in this manner
- Feelings of being overwhelmed – you think we're making progress and you this information and the problems about racial justice and inequity are systemic – they are woven into our lives
 - Wants a presentation about how we go about making some positive changes
- Thinking about board composition as a Community Action Agency and requirement to have 1/3 of board members be elected officials – not much diversity across elected officials
 - Would be nice to explore demographics

- Why do more people of color not run for office
- Would like to see growth of elected officials who are people of color
- Interested in more history of Oregon especially with Native Americans
 - How did the reservations come about?
 - How are our relationships
 - How should we honor those relationships?
- Legislators at the state-level make \$33,000 annually
 - Not feasible to make such a salary work with cost of living
 - Most legislators of color who are in the legislature have a second job
 - Urban League views this as an equity issue and barrier
 - Working in partnership with other organizations to put forth a legislative concept that addresses this issue so that the Oregon legislature is reflective of the state, and everyone can serve
- This likely occurs at the local level (County Commissioners) – some are full time and part time – it also takes money to even put your name out there and get your views known
- There is a larger conversation around governance about increasing salaries across the board as well as campaign finance reform, transparency, and ethics in politics
- Compensating those with lived experience is near to my heart – important to fund peer-led initiatives and or ensure meaningful
- In the housing realm there is now a program and fund set aside to compensate people to bring their lived expertise to the table – doesn't think those funds are available to local advisory and governing bodies
 - Noted that policy at a higher-level means that for a CAA, board participation compensation is not allowed and would have to come up with discretionary fund
 - OHCS is look at this policy and seeking guidance from DOJ because it is a priority for OHCS to figure out
- Hoping through process that we can learn from each other and some of the things that make our systems look the way they do have to do with policies that are outside of their control
- Want to bring real change to every level so regardless of who is providing the service that we all can respond to the needs of those who are unhoused and make meaningful impact
- We do have to always come back to that systems analysis (individual, institutional, systemic) – we cannot tinker around the edges because there are so many small and incremental changes that we can make but it doesn't get at the ways in which our systems are fundamentally based
 - This work requires we step outside of our comfort zone and explore what is possible

Agenda topic: Next Meeting Agenda |

The Facilitator shared next steps for Task Force members which included:

- Task Force Assignment Prior to August meeting
 - Re-read the Task Force [Report on Findings and Recommendations](#)
 - Prioritize a review of the discovery findings
- Virtual Meeting – Wednesday, August 17th from 5-6:30 pm
 - Next Steps for Identifying Implementation Pathways
 - Introduction to the Phase II Roadmap
- In-Person Meeting – Friday, September 9th all day – location to be sent out

Agenda topic: Check-out |

The Task Force meeting was concluded at 6:36 p.m.