



City of San Antonio

Agenda Memorandum

File Number:
{{item.tracking_number}}

Agenda Item Number: 2

Agenda Date: August 21, 2023

In Control: Community Health Committee

DEPARTMENT: Health Department

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Claude Jacob

COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED: Citywide

SUBJECT:

Briefing on the Resolution of Racism as a Public Health Crisis and 2nd Annual Health Equity Symposium highlights by San Antonio Metropolitan Health District (Metro Health) and the Department of Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility (DEIA).

SUMMARY:

Metro Health and DEIA will provide a briefing regarding the resolution of Racism as a Public Health Crisis as well as highlights of the upcoming 2nd Annual Health Equity Symposium scheduled for September 22, 2023.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

In 2020, the City of San Antonio City Council passed a resolution declaring Racism as a Public Health Crisis. Over 200 cities across the United States have adopted formal resolutions to-date. The resolution commits to advocating for racial justice in policies, programs and procedures;

and supports initiatives that promote racial equity and work with community-based groups to find innovative solutions to address systemic and institutional racism. In the FY22 Budget, the Health Equity Symposium was proposed by District 2 Councilmember Jalen McKee-Rodriguez and former District 7 Councilmember Ana Sandoval as a method for providing the community an update on the work being done to meet the intent of the Resolution. The inaugural Health Equity Symposium was held on September 21, 2022. Just over 200 attendees were provided information and recommended best practices pertaining to innovations in health equity in the areas of mental health, data inclusion, climate justice, and equity in communications. The daylong session included a panel discussion by city leadership and elected officials.

Metro Health and DEIA are collaborating on the 2nd Annual Health Equity Symposium in September 2023. This year's theme, "Rooted in Culture: Working Together for Transformative Change," centers community knowledge, co-learning, and collective action to address health inequities. The event will gather City of San Antonio staff, staff from faith-based and grassroots community organizations, and community members to discuss the current status of health equity and our efforts in eliminating historically rooted social and racial disparities in health. The symposium is expected to attract an audience of approximately 250 in-person participants and additional virtual participants as sessions will be streamed.

ISSUE:

Metro Health and DEIA will brief the Community Health Committee regarding the status of the adopted resolution as well as highlights of the 2nd Annual Health Equity Symposium.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact at this time.

ALTERNATIVES:

Item is for briefing purposes only.

RECOMMENDATION:

Item is for briefing purposes only.