

Committee Summary

Origin

Hennepin County Board Resolution 19-0387R1, adopted December 12, 2019.

Background

Hennepin County is focused on intentionally confronting and overcoming barriers that impact many residents, disproportionately residents of color. Hennepin County has dedicated leadership and resources to drive the importance of reducing racial disparities and supporting self-sufficiency and this work will be most successful in partnership with residents who are experiencing disparities and partners who are assisting individuals and families whose lives are impacted by disparities.

Mission

The mission of the Race Equity Advisory Council is to strengthen the county's goal of disparity reduction and to advise the county board and county administration on the county's vision and strategy focused on reducing racial disparities and advancing racial equity throughout Hennepin County.

Composition

The Race Equity Advisory Council (REAC) shall have at least 15 members and no more than 23. The council shall seek diverse membership through representation of historically marginalized communities, geographical distribution and individuals who represent various segments of the county population. Members should have:

- Connection with local historically marginalized communities;
- experience/expertise in specific domains including education, employment, health, housing, income, justice and/or transportation;
- a commitment to racial equity, social and environmental justice, and diversity and inclusion;
- the ability to work collaboratively with people of diverse perspectives and experiences; and
- the ability to represent the geographic and demographic diversity of Hennepin County.

Each county commissioner shall appoint one representative from their district to participate on the Race Equity Advisory Council. The remaining seats shall be filled using the county's open appointment process; preference will be given to Hennepin County residents.

Duties/Responsibilities

Learn: Understand Hennepin County's vision and strategy to reduce disparities.

Evaluate: Review and evaluate disparity reduction priorities and strategies.

Participate: Attend monthly Race Equity Advisory Council meetings.

Plan: Identify unmet needs of residents focused on reducing racial disparities and advise on the community engagement plan for disparity reduction and racial equity.

Race Equity Advisory Council (REAC)

Report: Report recommendations regarding strategies and ideas targeting reducing racial disparities for the residents annually to the County Board.

Term

Two years, with a limit of two terms.

Terms run from April 1 through March 31.

Meetings

The council meets monthly on the third Thursday from 6:00 to 8:00 pm virtually and at other times and locations as determined by the council. Members should expect to spend on average an additional 4-8 hours per month on Council work such as sub-committee meetings, reading and watching information. Meetings are open to the public; however, voting is restricted to membership.

Eligibility Requirements

At Large : Preference is given to Hennepin County residents. Individuals with lived experience of racial disparities in the area of education, employment, health, housing, income, justice and transportation are encouraged to apply.

Compensation

None

Reimbursement

Other Information

REAC applications are accepted during the Hennepin County Open Appointment process. Applicants will be notified to acknowledge receipt of application. Applicants will then be provided an opportunity to pre-record interview statements which are played for the County Commissioners at a regularly scheduled meeting. Applicants are encouraged to make a brief statement (no more than 3 minutes) regarding their qualifications and interest in the REAC. Typically, Commissioners will make REAC appointments by the end of March. All applicants will receive notification informing them of the outcome of their application and any necessary follow up steps. New members will be contacted by a REAC representative and will be invited to an orientation prior to their first meeting.

For assistance with an application or to request an accommodation, contact the county board clerk, 612-348-3081.

Contact Information

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