

Committee Meeting

7/2/20

- Present
 - Karen Anderson-Scott
 - Amy Fusting
 - Alithea Warmack
 - Franklyn Combs
 - Roberta Gill
 - Raquel Coombs
- Yesterday was meeting for policy and equity
 - Steering committee for task force
 - Recap
 - Every committee presented some reports
 - Focus of others should help us navigate
 - Civil legal aid
 - CARES Act funding for legal aid
 - Goal is to secure long-term sustainable funding solution
 - Lack of filings due to closure has led to steep drop off of funding
 - Consumer protection
 - Debt collection
 - Overlap with housing and legal services
 - Housing security
 - Securing access to courts
 - Evictions
 - Once courts reopen - take advantage of alternative dispute resolution
 - Data tech
 - Help other committees with data elements
 - Online court operations
 - Trying to get numbers and information from people's law library
 - As well as how many people are disadvantaged by not having access to technology
 - Economic and food security
 - Access to public benefits
 - Unemployment, etc.
 - Life and health planning

- Need for covid lens on advanced directives, wills, power of attorney
- Judge Davis mentioned empty homes in Baltimore often comes because elderly relative with paid off home dies or goes into assisted living with no formalized documents, etc.
 - No will in place for death
- Surviving abuse, neglect, exploitation
 - Domestic violence, abuse
 - Drop in reporting
 - Potentially due to isolation because of COVID
 - Explosion of domestic violence cases worldwide
 - Magnified because of quarantine
 - Franklyn - operate helpline at United Way
 - Important to contact relevant agencies to inform them of jump
 - Recent jump has been markedly different than pre covid
- Task Force meeting next thursday at 10
- Added two new members to spreadsheet
- In task force packet - included our purpose
 - Support for other committees
 - Trying to create materials to communicate rights, processes, and changes
 - Goal is to get a diverse host of people geographically and racially
- Last week sent out questions for committee members
 - Who can we bring on?
 - Interfaith alliance, etc.
 - Franklyn - try to strive for as much diversity as possible, even outside of race and ethnicity
 - Helps to drown out groupthink
 - Do not necessarily need to be communications experts
 - Our work may be sticky
 - Other committees might be trying to do some of their own outreach
 - Should be cautious of other committees going further/less coordinated than our message
 - They need to be aware of what we are doing
 - Others have created subcommittees
 - Should have regular meetings with other committees

- If public was to join we will need to be more cautious in what info we are putting out
- May be better to get people from different jobs/offices/etc.
 - 4 from one office may be too many
- Would need to make clear that we do not have all the answers
 - Do not need to shoulder burden of having all the info because so many organizations and other committees are working on more issue specific questions
- Our role may be best served as navigators
- Targeting 10-15, too many might be unwieldy
- Raquel
 - Difficult part is trying to keep abreast what all of the other committees are doing
 - Translations of documents? Which groups will need this?
 - ID population - guide who we can and should reach out to
 - Would town hall's be issue specific?
 - Questions could get out of hand
 - Need to reach out to people in dire situations - they will be looking for answers
 - Other committee's need to be putting together resource sheets
- Aleithea
 - Will receive notes from other committees, so we will have some info after their meetings
 - So much isolation from outlets
 - How are people getting their information right now because of the pandemic?
- Karen
 - How could we handle a member of the public that takes issues with our discussion/meeting?
 - Asked for short term and long term goals
 - Short term
 - Populate committee
 - May have to create subcommittees
 - Can discuss new members amongst ourselves
 - Need names and contact info on google sheet
 - Media
 - Social media
 - Town hall meetings
 - Regional? 6-7 by Maryland regions

- Not everyone is online/reading newspapers/watching news
 - Should create pamphlets, reading materials
- Open meetings act
 - Keep up with website to ensure it remains a hub for information
 - Someone is assigned to keep track of meetings, agenda, notes
 - This may not remain our standard meeting time, as courts open people's schedules may get packed
 - Will try to get a meeting sometime next week before task force members
- Main task force meeting next thursday 10-12
- Aleithea
 - Maryland Order for Life Sustaining Treatment (MOLST) expert - knows someone who may be interested in having
- Franklyn
 - President and CEO of 211 maryland aid
 - May have info about data
- Karen
 - Polaris project - help human trafficking, have helped pass legislation
 - Shooting for Wednesday meeting next week
 - Review one-pager for task force, edit at next meeting
 - Next meeting 9:00-10:30 Tuesday